

VIDEO GAMES: A-plus review for 'Vermintide II' [Page 26](#)

MUSIC: David Byrne asks tough questions [Page 36](#)

NCAA TOURNAMENT: How UVA built a winner [Back page](#)

EUROPE
& PACIFIC

WEEKEND
EDITION

MOVIES

As Lara Croft,
Alicia Vikander
is the best part of
new 'Tomb Raider'
origin story
[Page 24](#)



STARS STRIPES.®

[stripes.com](#)

Volume 76, No. 237 ©SS 2018

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00



MY LAI

'A stain on the Army'

Page 8



US, Nigerien troops killed 11 ISIS militants in previously undisclosed mission

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. forces and partner troops killed 11 Islamic State militants in Niger during a firefight that occurred two months after a deadly ambush as part of a mission that only now is coming to light.

U.S. Africa Command confirmed Thursday that U.S. troops and Nigerian government forces were on a Dec. 6 mission in the

country's Lake Chad Basin region when they came under fire from "a formation of violent extremists."

"The purpose of this mission was to set the conditions for future partner-led operations against violent extremist organizations in the region, and based on currently available information, we assessed this attack was launched by ISIS-West Africa," AFRICOM spokeswoman Samantha Reho said in a statement.

No U.S. or Nigerien forces were killed or injured in the attack, which included the deaths of two enemy fighters who wore suicide vests. A weapons cache also was destroyed during the mission, Reho said.

The fight came to light after The New York Times recently obtained a government document that made vague reference to the attack and the need for U.S. troops to defend themselves.

U.S. special operations forces have been

operating in Niger and western Africa for years, away from the public eye and scrutiny but not without risks.

Shortly after the Oct. 4 ambush that killed four U.S. soldiers, the former head of special operations missions in Africa told Stars and Stripes that there had been numerous firefights in Niger during his time in command.

SEE MISSION ON PAGE 11

MILITARY

Harris: Kim wins if US exits S. Korea

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A day after President Donald Trump reportedly hinted at a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, the admiral in charge of Pacific Command warned Thursday such a move would be viewed as a win for North Korea.

"I believe [regime leader Kim Jong Un] would do a victory dance," said Adm. Harry Harris, who is slated to retire this year and is Trump's pick to be the next ambassador to Australia. "I think he'd be a happy man if we abdicated our alliance with South Korea and with Japan."

The comments by Harris were part of a wide-ranging conversation with the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing to examine the military posture and security challenges in the Pacific region.

A day earlier, Trump told donors during a fundraiser in St. Louis that he wanted to be a smart trader and the United States is

losing money in its trade relationship with South Korea, The Washington Post reported.

During the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Thursday, Harris also addressed talk of a controversial "bloody nose" strike against North Korea, saying no such plan for a limited, preemptive strike is in the works.

Media reports have pointed to support from some officials in the White House for such an attack against North Korea.

Harris said the United States must be ready to "do the whole thing" rather than a limited strike if there is a conflict. He estimated a conflict on the Korean Peninsula could result in thousands of casualties.

"We have no bloody nose strategy. I don't know what that is," he said. "I am ready to executive whatever the president and the National Command Authority directs me to do, but a bloody nose strategy is not contemplated."

Chaos at the State Department and the White House has some defense hawks on Capitol Hill

worried about the impact on potential talks with North Korea. On Tuesday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was dismissed from his position as a wave of vacancies still dominate key diplomatic posts.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the vacancies added to a long-to-do list for the United States before successful talks with North Korea can take place.

"I am concerned that there is a very short window of time for all of this work to take place," Reed said.

The Senate hearing also covered a scope of issues facing the military in the Pacific region, from a crucial need for hypersonic weapons to growing threats from Russia and China, which were highlighted as the new, major adversaries in the National Defense Strategy.

Russia, for example, is boosting operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. In the north, Russia is growing its presence and influence in the Arctic Circle, where it has more bases than all

other countries combined, Harris said.

There's concern also that Russia will come to North Korea's aid as a result of the U.S. sanctions against the Kim's regime, said Sen. Angus King, I-Maine.

"I do believe they are trying to mess things up. I think they'll meddle," Harris said. "If the sanctions that are put in place over North Korea are too hard on North Korea... I believe that Russia will seek to relieve the pressure."

The comments follow Harris' testimony before a House Armed Services Committee last month, when he submitted a 58-page prepared statement addressing myriad issues. In it, he said he believes Kim is angling for a unified Korean Peninsula and he repeated that concern Thursday. He also reiterated the United States must do more to head off China's efforts to take over as a dominate power.

In light of those concerns, the proposed 2019 military budget will go a long way to sending a



Joe Gromelski/Stars and Stripes

Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. testifies at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Thursday.

new message from PACOM's 375,000 servicemembers and civilian defense workers, Harris said.

"One of the principal problems we face in the region is overcoming the perception that United States is a declining or disinterested power," the admiral said. The new budget "will send a strong signal... the U.S. is fully committed to preserving a free and open order in the Indo-Pacific."

grisales.claudia@stars.com
Twitter: @cgrisales

2 Navy aviators die after F/A-18 crashes off Fla. coast

By COURTNEY MABEUS
The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Two Navy aviators from the Naval Air Station Oceana-based Strike Fighter Squadron 213 died Wednesday after their F/A-18 Super Hornet crashed off the coast of Florida, Naval Air Force Atlantic spokesman Cmdr. Dave Hecht said.

The fighter jet crashed about a mile off the coast around 4:30 p.m. as it was returning from a training mission, Hecht said. Both crewmembers ejected and were recovered from the water and taken by ambulance to Lower Keys Medical Center.

Hecht did not know if the crewmembers, a pilot and a weapons systems officer, died at the scene or later.

The Navy said late Wednesday that it is withholding the aviators' identities for 24 hours pending next-of-kin notification.

The jet flew out of Naval Air Station Key West, on Boca Chica Key. A detachment of the squadron, known as the Fighting Blacklions, is in Florida for training.

Barbie Wilson said she was returning to her home on the

backside of the air station from running errands Wednesday when she saw the jet approaching. She stopped to watch, as she often does, when suddenly "the wings went vertical," she said in a phone call Wednesday night.

"There was a fireball and it literally dropped out of the sky," Wilson said.

Wilson said she called 911. She said it appeared the jet landed up-

side-down in shallow water near a mangrove and the fuel tank floated away.

The emergency response took less than five minutes, Wilson said.

The cause of the crash will be investigated, the Navy said.

VFA-213 deployed with the Norfolk-based George H.W. Bush carrier strike group in 2017.

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 18
Business/Weather 20
Classified 50-51
Comics/Crossword .42, 46-47
Faces 43
Opinion 44-45
Sports 52-64
Weekend 21-42

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

**Stars and Stripes:
your one source for all the
military news that matters.**

STARS AND STRIPES

Updated 24/7 for the military community at home and abroad.

Check out Stripes.com today!



MILITARY

Report: Trump links S. Korea troop withdrawal, trade

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump implied he may withdraw American troops from South Korea if the U.S. ally doesn't concede more in trade negotiations, a newspaper reported.

The Washington Post quoted Trump as saying Wednesday in a fundraising speech that the United States was losing money on trade with South Korea as well as the military presence that is meant as protection against aggression from the North.

"We have a very big trade deficit with them, and we protect them," Trump said Wednesday in audio obtained by the Post. "We lose money on trade, and we lose money on the military. We have right now 32,000 soldiers between North and South Korea. Let's see what happens."

"Our allies care about themselves," he said in the 30-minute speech to donors in Missouri. "They don't care about us."

Trump's hard line on trade issues comes at a sensitive time as

“I don't think he has any real intention to pull out the troops from South Korea. But maybe he'd like to use the debt card.”

Choi Kang
vice president of Seoul-based think tank Asia Institute for Policy Studies

the U.S. and South Korea are preparing for planned talks with the North in coming weeks over its nuclear weapons program.

The administration is renegotiating a free-trade agreement with South Korea. It also has begun talks on sharing the cost of maintaining U.S. troops on the divided peninsula.

Trump also has said he will impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, which would likely have a significant impact on South Korea as the third-largest exporter of steel to the United States.

Choi Kang, vice president of the Asia Institute for Policy Studies, a Seoul-based think tank, said it doesn't appear to be a serious threat but rather a negotiating

tactic by Trump.

"I don't think he has any real intention to pull out the troops from South Korea," Choi said in a telephone interview. "But maybe he'd like to use the debt card."

"It seems to me that he's pressing the South Korean government to be more forthcoming about the trade issue and the burden-sharing issue," he added.

However, Choi cautioned that such threats and Trump's unpredictable personality could damage the alliance, which was forged during the 1950-53 Korean War. "There will be turbulence ahead in how we manage relations with the United States," he said.

Duyeon Kim, a senior visiting fellow with the Korean Peninsula Future Forum in Seoul, said the

withdrawal of U.S. forces would play into North Korea and China's hands.

"Only Trump knows how serious his comments are, but even if it's intended as 'leverage' in trade negotiations, it's a poor one because that's exactly what North Korea and China want," she said in an email.

"It's in America's national interest to have a military presence on the Korean Peninsula. It would also be dangerous to withdraw troops while Pyongyang has nuclear weapons and capabilities," she added.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on Trump's remarks.

Trump made similar claims and threats about South Korea and other allies during his campaign for the presidency.

U.S. and South Korean negotiators met last week in Hawaii to begin what are expected to be contentious cost-sharing talks as the current special measures agreement is set to expire on Dec. 31.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in South Korea, although U.S. Forces Korea's public affairs office said that number routinely swells to about 32,000 with rotational units and ongoing exercises.

Seoul's contribution for non-personnel costs for U.S. forces is roughly \$890 million this year, or just under half of the total.

It also is footing most of the \$10.7 billion bill for an expanded Army base south of Seoul that will eventually become the headquarters for the main command known as U.S. Forces Korea.

Efforts to withdraw U.S. troops from the peninsula are not unprecedented.

Former President Jimmy Carter tried to do so in 1977 but failed after he faced major opposition, including from his own top advisers.

Past administrations also have reduced the number stationed in South Korea, including the redeployment of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in 2004.

gamei.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingamei

Navy notes fewer provocations from Iran in Persian Gulf

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iranian naval forces appear to have halted their provocations of U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf in recent months, a U.S. military official said Thursday.

According to Navy Cmdr. William Urban, spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, there have been no "unsafe and unprofessional" actions by Iranian naval forces in the Gulf since August 2017.

Prior to that, Iranian vessels had periodically made "hostile" approaches to U.S. ships that were considered dangerous provocations.

Urban declined to speculate on the reason for the change.

"It seems like they've absolutely made a conscious decision to give us more space," he said. "That is definitely a change in their behavior."

Urban spoke to reporters traveling with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who stopped in Bahrain to meet with senior government officials and U.S. military leaders on his way back from Afghanistan.

The last tense encounter between the U.S. Navy and Iranian forces in the Persian Gulf was recorded on Aug. 14, 2017, when an unarmed Iranian drone shadowed the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier at night and came close enough to F-18 fighter jets to put the lives of American pilots at risk, the Navy said at the time.

The drone did not respond to repeated radio calls and came within 1,000 feet of U.S. fighters. In a similar encounter Aug. 8, the Navy said an Iranian drone came within 100 feet of an F-18 preparing to land on the Nimitz.

For the first eight months of 2017, the Navy recorded 14 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and/or unprofessional" interactions with Iranians forces. It recorded 35 in 2016 and 23 in 2015.

The incidents at sea almost always involved the Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary force that reports only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Some analysts believe the incidents are meant in part to squeeze moderate President Hassan Rouhani's administration after the 2015 nuclear deal.

Of the incidents at sea last year, the worst involved Iranian forces capturing and holding overnight 10 U.S. sailors who strayed into the Islamic Republic's territorial waters.

Iranian forces in turn accuse the U.S. Navy of unprofessional behavior, especially in the Strait of Hormuz, the mouth of the Persian Gulf, through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes.

Bahrain, where Mattis stopped on Thursday, is a tiny island kingdom off the coast of Saudi Arabia and the home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.



Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, center, arrives at an auditorium at Naval Support Activity Bahrain for an all-hands call Thursday. Mattis took questions from servicemembers during the event.

JASON BEHNKE
Stars and Stripes

Mattis meets with troops in Bahrain

By JASON BEHNKE
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BAHRAIN, Bahrain — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met with servicemembers in Bahrain on Thursday as he continued his tour of Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Mattis, along with a delegation that included the U.S. 5th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. John Aquilino, also met with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Wednesday to discuss the partnership between the U.S. and Bahrain as well as regional security issues.

"Bahrain is a very strong defense relationship and a vital regional ally to the United States," Mattis said in a statement. "The basing is essential for our access and U.S. military operations in the Middle East. And they've been an excellent host."

The event Thursday was held in a gymnasium on base and packed beyond capacity, leading facilitators to turn many people away. The talk was off limits to media.

Mattis spent most of his time fielding questions from the servicemembers.

"[I] like staying in touch with those folks and hearing their view of what's going on [among] our forces that are deployed out here," Mattis told the Pentagon's Internal Department of Defense News Service.

Seaman Jackson Scofield, who attended the event, said afterward that the time Mattis takes to interact with the troops means a lot to them.

"I think it shows that he respects the troops, and he puts in the time to actually get around and look each of us in the eyes and tell us he appreciates everything we're doing," Scofield said. "I think all the sailors, Marines, and all branches, I think they really respect this man greatly. He's a good representation of the American way."

Many servicemembers remained in the hallway trying to hear what was being discussed and trying to get a picture of Mattis through the doorway.

Bahrain is the headquarters for the U.S. 5th Fleet and a critical base for U.S. efforts at combating piracy as well as launching missions in both the Middle East and Africa. It's also close to the Strait of Hormuz, where a large share of the world's oil supply transits and where contact with Iran in international waters has led to tensions.

For years, the U.S. has accused Iran of unsafe maneuvers directed at U.S. ships. In an apparent shift in policy, Iran hasn't conducted any unsafe provocations since August, Navy officials told Stars and Stripes last week.

Mattis arrived in Bahrain after a visit to Oman and an unannounced visit to Afghanistan, where he met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. Mattis praised Ghani's recent offer to negotiate with the Taliban without preconditions, according to a Pentagon statement.

behnke.jason@stripes.com
Twitter: @jasonFromSD

PACIFIC

IG report blames DeCA for produce price hike

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Defense Commissary Agency has saved tens of millions of dollars shipping produce to the Pacific since 2015. However, a recent inspector general report says the agency failed to provide effective oversight of its new contracts, leaving customers paying significantly more for fresh fruits and vegetables.

In the past, DeCA subsidized contractors' produce shipments to commissaries in Japan and South Korea, costing the agency about \$114.6 million from 2013 to 2015, the IG report said. When contracts were renegotiated in 2015, DeCA stopped paying for shipping, instead aiming to purchase more locally grown produce and having suppliers foot those costs.

Since then, DeCA has saved about \$38 million per year.

After the deal was made, prices for fresh produce climbed at Pacific commissaries, according to the report. Between November 2015 and April 2017, customers in mainland Japan paid 20.9 percent more for produce. During the same period, Okinawa customers saw an increase of 23.6 percent while those in South Korea paid 31.5 percent more.

The report's findings were based on a review of prices for 239 unique fresh produce items in mainland Japan, 237 in Okinawa and 231 in South Korea.

The 2015 contract's aim was to keep the quality and cost of produce at base comparable to what they were before the contract, but the IG report says those expectations

were not met. It blamed DeCA for the price hike, saying the agency's "market research did not adequately evaluate the feasibility of obtaining fresh produce items from in-country for DeCA commissaries in the Pacific theater."

DeCA spokesman Kevin Robinson likened the price increases to berries in the U.S., where they are cheaper in summer and more expensive in winter when they must be sourced from other countries.

"While transferring the responsibility for shipping to the contractor may have contributed to price increases, the price of produce fluctuates depending on market factors such as the availability and the growing season in all parts of the world," he said.

The Pacific model is based on one used to "successfully" supply produce to Europe commissaries since 2007, Robinson said.

"These contracts hold the contractors responsible for the product's freshness and quality until it is received and accepted by our commissaries," he said.

The IG report also mentioned that Cost of Living Allowances were minimally affected by the higher prices because produce accounts for only about 2 percent of purchases reported in surveys analyzed to set COLA amounts.

To avoid high produce prices at the commissaries, some customers in the Pacific say they are going off base more often for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Yokosuka resident Kimberly Carpenter is living in Japan for her second time. She said the commissary's prices were noticeably cheaper before 2015.

"We lived here in 2011 through 2014 and



LEON COOK/Stars and Stripes

Six-ounce boxes of blueberries and raspberries were selling Thursday for \$6.49 and \$7.29, respectively, at the commissary at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

[are] back again, and I'm not sure what the commissary is thinking in regard to pricing. Who in their right mind is going to pay \$4 for a single bell pepper?" Carpenter said. "Why the military thinks the commissary is supporting our troops with these prices is beyond me."

But going off base for cheaper produce isn't always feasible, said Aimee Palmer, also of Yokosuka.

"We have been here since January 2014, [and] my kids do not eat nearly as much fresh produce as I would like," she said. "I just don't make enough time in my week to go out in town and buy all the apples, bananas, grapes, oranges or strawberries my kids love to eat."

Robinson said that "while all produce on post may not be lower than the produce off post, we have verified that we are providing significant savings on the core items" such as apples, bananas, grapes, grape-

fruit, potatoes, tomatoes and carrots.

"We are not as competitive with 'farmers market' pricing, where quantities and assortments are sporadic, and the off-post establishments are not subject to the same health inspections as the DeCA sources," he said.

Still, many customers are appreciative of the commissary regardless of the produce prices because of its convenience and accessibility to American foods.

"The commissary isn't perfect, but I sure wouldn't want to see it go away," said Tanya King, a civilian worker at Yokosuka. "We have regular taco nights, so getting sour cream, cheese, taco sauce, etc., I don't know if I could live without some of the American ingredients that I couldn't get shipped via Amazon."

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

7th Fleet marks 75 years in Pacific with celebration Down Under

By TYLER HIAVAC
Stars and Stripes

The Navy's 7th Fleet celebrated its 75th anniversary this week at its birthplace Down Under.

The festivities kicked off Monday in Brisbane, Australia, with a series of performances by the 7th Fleet band at high schools around the city. On Wednesday, the fleet's commander, Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, laid a wreath at Submariner's Heritage Trail, the former site of Navy submarines in Australia during World War II and a memorial to submariners of all nations who lost their lives in defense of Australia. He also visited Gen. Douglas MacArthur's former office and sat in his chair.

The fleet's history stretches back to March 15, 1943, a year and three months after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. It was placed under the command of MacArthur, who was tasked with assembling allied forces to push back against the rapidly advancing Japanese military in the Pacific.

"One message generated 7th Fleet," Sawyer told Stars and Stripes in an interview last week. "It really was an outcome of what was ongoing during World War II. It provided geographic support to



Courtesy of U.S. Consulate General Sydney

Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, commander of the 7th Fleet, and U.S. Consul General Valerie Fowler prepare to lay a wreath Thursday at the Submariners Walk Heritage Trail in Brisbane, Australia.

Gen. MacArthur and what he was doing down south."

The fleet participated in major operations that liberated the Philippines from Japan. After the end of the war, it shifted its headquarters to Qingdao, China, where it was based from 1946 to 1949.

The 7th Fleet left China following the country's takeover by the communist forces and relocated to Subic Bay, Philippines, and then later to Japan.

In the decades after World War II, the fleet participated in both the Korean War — in which it conducted landings at Inchon that helped turn the tide during the conflict — and the Vietnam War.

Changing politics and alliances in the Pacific late found the U.S. partnering with former enemies Japan and Vietnam. Japan has hosted U.S. forces in the Pacific since the 1950s, and today the 7th Fleet is headquartered at Yoko-

suka Naval Base.

Vietnam, threatened by aggressive Chinese territorial claims in the region, has slowly increased relations with its former enemy — efforts spearheaded by naval forces in the region. Earlier this month, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson conducted a four-day port call in Danang, becoming the first U.S. carrier to visit Vietnam since the war.

"If you would've put yourself back in time 40 years ago and said, 'Are we ever gonna be standing in Danang, singing each other's national anthems on board an aircraft carrier, having a big-top reception and toasting each other?' There [are] not many people that would've taken that bet and said, 'That's what we're gonna do,'" Sawyer told Stars and Stripes.

Although the fleet hasn't participated in a major Pacific conflict in decades, threats remain that keep its sailors busy. Those include North Korea and an increasingly assertive China.

The 7th Fleet's ballistic missile defense ships help shield Japan from possible North Korean attacks, and Navy vessels often conduct freedom-of-navigation operations near disputed islets militarized by China in the South

China Sea.

"You've got North Korea, which has done a lot of intercontinental ballistic missile testing and some nuclear testing," Sawyer told Stars and Stripes. "You've got some revisionist powers in Russia and China ... issues down in the South China Sea with land reclamation and militarization of those islands, concerns about the Senkaku Islands with the Japanese and the Chinese ... that's caused the operational demand to go up."

Sawyer said a "confluence of like-minded nations" and overlapping national interests will allow the Navy to keep working alongside long-standing allies such as Japan and South Korea as well as newer partners like Vietnam and India.

He added that the fleet helps provide security and stability in the region, which allows countries to flourish economically.

"The common theme from 1943 to now is we're operating in and around the Indo-Pacific region," he said. "Back then, our job was working with like-minded countries and navies to provide security and stability to the region. That's what forward-deployed forces are for. We're here to provide security."

h1avac.tyler@stripes.com

MILITARY

Trump's 'Space Force' baffles, thrills on Capitol Hill

By CLAUDIA GRIALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday was giving one of his typical, rowdy, campaign-style speeches to Marines in California when he pitched the idea of a "Space Force" as if he had derived it all on his own.

But the quick details that Trump offered at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar seemed to mirror an existing House plan to create a Space Corps.

The president's Space Force drew a quick jab of jokes and excitement Tuesday, but received serious consideration Wednesday during two congressional hearings on Capitol Hill.

"I don't know what he meant," retired Gen. Robert Kehler, former commander of U.S. Strategic Command, told the House Armed Services Committee when asked about a Space Force. "What should he have meant, is really, another question of what we should do."

The discussion of a new Space Corps could play a role in proposed policy plans for the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. Trump's comments might have drawn quips referring to fictional, intergalactic fights, but some military leaders and lawmakers took the president's pitch seriously.

The two House Armed Services Committee members spearheading a new Space Corps, Reps. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., and Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., were lauded Wednesday as helping get Trump's attention on the issue.

"Their very visionary sponsorship of legislation in this field now has been adopted by President Donald Trump," Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., said during Wednesday's House Armed Services Committee hearing on U.S. space warfighting readiness.



COURTESY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE VIA NASA/AP

The X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle sits at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., in June 2009.

The readiness concerns framed Trump's comments Tuesday.

"Space is a warfighting domain, just like the land, air and sea. We may even have a 'Space Force,'" Trump told servicemembers in San Diego. "You know, I was saying it the other day because we are doing a tremendous amount of work in space. I said maybe we need a new force, we'll call it the Space Force. And I was not really serious. And then I said, 'What a great idea, maybe we'll have to do that.'"

Last year, House lawmakers gave approval to a Space Corps proposal, but the Senate — driven in large part by opposition from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other Pentagon leaders — rejected the plan. Instead, the 2018 NDAA directed for a study of the Space Corps proposal, which is due in December.

Rogers and Cooper estimated last month during a forum at a Washington think tank

that a new Space Corps Command could be in place in the next three to five years. The two lawmakers also detailed the struggles that they face in forming the command, including pushback from the Air Force, where the new Space Corps would be formed.

The topic dominated the opening of a House subpanel hearing Wednesday on the Air Force's 2019 budget proposal.

"The president made a statement suggesting the administration supports the idea of a space force," Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee defense subpanel, said in questioning top Air Force leaders about their opposition. "Both of you and Secretary Mattis have expressed concern about this in the past."

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson sounded a more diplomatic tone on the plan in her response Wednesday.

"As the president said yesterday, the new National Defense Strategy for space recognizes that space is a warfighting domain," Wilson said, dodging specifics on why there's opposition to the plan. "We appreciate the president's and the vice president's leadership on space."

Gen. David Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, told the House appropriations subpanel that he's "excited" and "really looking forward to the conversation."

On Wednesday, Rogers said he was pleased to hear it.

"Talking about this is very important," he said.

Doug Loverro, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for space policy for the Department of Defense, told the House Armed Services Committee that while he also was confused by Trump's remarks, it should fuel focus on protecting space just like sea, land, air and cyberspace.

"I don't know what the president meant," he said. "But we lack that focus for space, one of our major five warfighting domains. I may be biased, but I think [it is] one of the most important."

Todd Harrison, senior fellow and director of defense budget analysis for Washington think tank the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Trump's comments seem to come from an increased emphasis and investment in space security.

"It appeared he was thinking of the cuff and he had not looked into the history," Harrison said. "This is something that has been an ongoing discussion for at least two decades. I think what he should have meant — and there were some hints of this in his remarks — is that ... we need to look at reorganizing our military around this domain."

griales.claudia@stars.com
Twitter: @cgrsiales

Okinawa activist guilty of protest-linked offenses



MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A man holds a poster depicting detained anti-U.S. base activist leader Hiroji Yamashiro during a demonstration in March 2017 in front of Naha District Court in Okinawa, Japan.

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

Okinawa's anti-base activist leader has been found guilty of a string of demonstration-related offenses that included cutting barbed wire on a fence surrounding a U.S. military installation.

Hiroji Yamashiro, 65, chairman of the Okinawa Peace Activity Center, was found guilty of all charges and was sentenced at Naha District Court on Wednesday to two years in prison with hard labor. The sentence was suspended for three years, according to defense team member Shunji Miyake.

Yamashiro appealed the decision to the high court soon after his sentencing, Miyake said.

Yamashiro and his group are committed to halting U.S. military expansion within the island prefecture, including the relocation of air operations from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab in the remote, northern recesses of the island.

After Yamashiro's October 2016 arrest for cutting a strand of barbed wire on a perimeter fence at Okinawa's Northern Training Area while protesting the construction of U.S. military helicopter landing pads, prosecutors added other charges. Some stemmed from events months earlier, such as obstructing officers and causing injury after a scuffle between police and protesters and the forcible obstruction of business after Yamashiro was accused of blocking a Camp Schwab construction gate with more than 1,000 concrete blocks.

Yamashiro was detained for five months before being released in March 2017 on a \$64,000 bond. His incarceration in solitary confinement drew international attention and condemnation

from human rights groups.

Yamashiro had pleaded not guilty to most of the charges but admitted to cutting the barbed wire. His lawyers argued that a long detention for what they say are minor offenses is a clear violation of his right to freedom of expression.

"To some extent, obstruction should be accepted as freedom of expression," Miyake said, claiming that most Okinawans are against the Futenma relocation. "The [ruling] showed how maturity of democracy is low."

In December, prosecutors had recommended a sentence of 2½ years with hard labor, suggesting that Yamashiro's actions went beyond the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Japanese constitution.

The Okinawa Peace Activity Center collected more than 316,000 signatures demanding the court to drop the charges, group officials said. The signatures — which included about 2,400 from outside of Japan, mostly from the U.S. — were submitted to the court Friday.

During his incarceration, Yamashiro was kept in solitary confinement with no natural light after guards covered up his windows, he told Stars and Stripes last summer. He also said he was denied access to his doctor and was denied treatment for a cavity, and that guards kept the lights on in his cell at all times and removed towels and items he placed over his face to help himself sleep.

Groups like Amnesty International and Veterans for Peace took up his cause, and protests demanding his freedom sprang up on the island and in the U.S. until he was released on bond. Yamashiro then spoke at the United Nations, toured Japan and continued his protest efforts.

kusumoto.hana@stripes.com

MILITARY DISCOUNTS



Need help? Call us!

0621-72920



MILITARY FLIGHTS

For all Military ID card holders and their family members:

Los Angeles	\$52 €
Charlotte	470 €
Dallas	496 €
Las Vegas	482 €
Washington	465 €
Atlanta	492 €
Fort Myers	491 €
San Francisco	532 €

www.abctravel.de

Flights from Dec. 25, 17 to Apr. 6, 18. RT from/to Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service e.K., Gerdeweg 5, 68389 Mannheim

PACIFIC

Are canned goods helping N. Korea skirt sanctions?

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Is North Korea's air force selling canned soup and taxi rides to upgrade its runways and airstrips?

Amid the toughest sanctions ever against the North and its nuclear weapons program, there are some compelling reasons to believe the answer may well be yes. The story of how — and why — offers some insight into how North Korea's economy functions under Kim Jong Un.

There's a fine line between North Korea's military and its private sector. To augment the already huge share of the country's limited national resources earmarked for defense, North Korean military units control everything from restaurants to farms to the flagship airline.

Air Koryo is far more than just an airline.

Over the past several years, it has also become one of the country's most recognizable consumer brands.

With only a dozen or so active aircraft operating on limited routes to China and the Russian Far East, it's hard to imagine it's ever been much of a money-maker for Pyongyang in the conventional, ticket sales sort of way. But it is a symbol of national prestige and serves as a key lifeline to the outside world, transporting people and loads and loads of precious — and often not-very-closely-scrutinized — cargo.

Air Koryo runs at least one gas station and car wash in Pyongyang, has its own fleet of taxis and operates several retail shops, including a boutique at the airport. At the relatively upscale Potonggang Department Store in central Pyongyang, whole aisles are devoted to Air Koryo brand products, from crates of liquor to row after row of Coke-like sodas and a half-dozen varieties of canned goods, including pheasant soup and peaches.

The airline's moves mirror broader shifts in the North Korean economy, which is still socialist and technically centrally controlled, but under Kim has shifted rapidly toward capitalist-style entrepreneurship.

At the grass-roots level, street vendors and small, bazaar-style markets are common. Higher up, state-run enterprises are adapting to become more productive and profitable — quite possibly because the regime is pinched by sanctions and shrinking trade possibilities, can't afford to prop them up anymore.

It's not just Air Koryo. Naegohyang, a major producer of cigarettes including the luxury "7.27" brand, reportedly favored by Kim himself, has begun pushing its



ERIC TALMADGE/AP

North Korea's flagship airline, Air Koryo, sells numerous brand products. Profits appear to help North Korea's air force.

own line of sporting goods.

It's impossible to say how profitable those initiatives have been. But the swelling variety of the goods and their ready availability in the capital and elsewhere is undeniable.

The appearance of a subsidiary company, Korea Hanggong Trading, at recent trade fairs suggests Air Koryo may be considering an export business, something of a stretch in the current political climate and sanctions aimed at cutting off the North's ability to fund its nuclear program.

Curtis Melvin, a researcher at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University and editor of the North Korean Economy Watch blog, describes the airline as a "wholly owned subsidiary" of the air force, which is using its consumer goods business to help financial reconstruction of its own infrastructure, including runway renovations and new revetments at remote highway airfields.

Selling Air Koryo-labeled products made by military factories can help the air force boost revenues outside of its official budget allocations, Melvin said.

Air Koryo's connection to the military is not immediately obvious and is often overlooked.

According to a 2014 United Nations Panel of Experts' report, the airline, all airports and airfields in North Korea are controlled by the Korean People's Air Force through its Civil Aviation Bureau. The report added that the airline's personnel are believed to be members of the air force and "all in-country maintenance is conducted by air force engineering staff."

That makes it a natural target for sanctions, another incentive for diversification.

Though Washington-backed efforts to blacklist the airline entirely have failed, the U.S. Treasury Department in 2016 slapped sanctions on Air Koryo for doing a flyover during a 2013 military parade and for transporting spare parts used in Scud-B missile systems, among other things.



Screenshot from Facebook

G-Dragon, whose real name is Kwon Ji-yong, is the leader and main songwriter for the South Korean pop group Big Bang. His fans are sending so much mail to the recruit training center where he has started his basic training that his management agency has requested they stop.

Fans send deluge of mail to K-pop star and S.Korean military recruit

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's military is facing a new danger — fans of K-pop superstar G-Dragon.

The recruit training center has reportedly been inundated with fan mail after the 29-year-old leader and main songwriter of the hit group Big Bang began his mandatory military service on Feb. 27.

G-Dragon's management agency said the boot camp where he's undergoing training is "in a state of paralysis" because it's constantly running out of paper and printer ink because of the volume.

That's also slowing down mail for other recruits at the center because emails have to be printed on paper and distributed.

"G-Dragon feels sorry for his comrades ... and is also sorry that he cannot read all the emails/letters sent to him by his fans," YG Entertainment said in a notice posted on its website.

"G-Dragon is thankful for your support and concern about his military duty," it added. "But we would appreciate it if you could consider the tricky situation and refrain from sending letters."

Most able-bodied South Korean men between the ages of 18 and 35 must serve in the military for about two years as the country faces a constant threat from the

North. But many entertainers put off their enlistment until a convenient point in their careers.

G-Dragon must complete five weeks of boot camp. He will then be assigned to an Army unit for the rest of his service.

Around 200 fans, including some from Japan and Taiwan, traveled to the training center in Cheorwon, southeast of Seoul, to say goodbye to G-Dragon, whose real name is Kwon Ji-yong, on Feb. 27, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

Most of the members of the five-member group are beginning their military service this year.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
chang.kyong@stripes.com

Soldier's mom found after 2 days in Japan

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The search for a soldier's mother, lost for two days during a trip to Japan, was called off Thursday evening after she suddenly turned up at Misawa Air Base.

Pamela Fitzgerald, 47, of Vermont, went missing Tuesday on the way from Narita International Airport to the base in northeastern Japan. She was supposed to rendezvous with her son, Misawa-based Army Staff Sgt. Mike McMillan, at Hachinohe Station, that evening but never arrived.

"We were hoping she had just missed the trains and had to wait until morning," daughter-in-law Ashley McMillan told Stars and Stripes before Fitzgerald was found. "But [Mike] waited until about noon [Wednesday] and she didn't show up."

When Fitzgerald failed to call or send messages, her family contacted the U.S. Embassy and Japanese authorities to report the disappearance. Officials checked



Courtesy of Meaghan McMillan


Pamela Fitzgerald, left, seen here with her daughter, Meaghan McMillan, was missing for two days in Japan.

hospitals for Fitzgerald, who suffers from diabetes.

The search was called off after the military moon arrived at Misawa and saw her picture posted at the front gate with a be-on-the-lookout notice, McMillan said. Fitzgerald pointed at her likeness and said, "That's me," before bursting into tears.

Fitzgerald had been "lost in the train stations" and had about \$115 left out of \$900 she'd converted to Japanese yen when she arrived, McMillan said. She spent the money on trains and taxis, and spent two sleepless nights in train stations.


cook.leon@stripes.com
Twitter: @LeonCook12



SUN OPTICAL COMPANY

*PRESCRIPTION GLASSES,
SUNGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES*

sunoptical@hotmail.com **09:30 ~ 20:00**
TEL: 031-611-1001 **(Closed Tuesday)**



VIETNAM

AT
50

What led to My Lai?

50 years after atrocities, still no clear consensus on how or why it happened

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Lt. Tony Nadal survived three days and three nights of vicious fighting at Landing Zone X-Ray, the first major battle of the Vietnam War. When it was over, 79 American soldiers, including some of Nadal's closest friends, were dead.

While clearing a village on another mission, Nadal and his soldiers tossed a grenade into a tunnel that they suspected concealed enemy fighters. After the explosion they found the bodies of only a mother and her two small children, too frightened to come out when called.

"I've never gotten over that. I have tears in my eyes just telling you about it," Nadal said in an interview a half-century later. "But that was an act of war. In my view, it was a legitimate assumption that they were a threat."

No casualties of war prepared Nadal for what he saw when he opened the Dec. 5, 1969, issue of Life magazine.

The glossy pages contained the first view for most Americans of an atrocity committed by U.S. soldiers 18 months before: photographs of scores of dead women, children and babies sprawled in a ditch at My Lai. Photos of terrified, huddled women holding babies, and grandmothers crying just before their murders.

Nadal was by then an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy. "I told the cadets how ashamed I was," he said.

"I was ashamed for the Army. I was ashamed soldiers had done this and I was ashamed that nobody had stopped it."

"My Lai is a stain on the Army," said Nadal, 82, a retired colonel. "It's a stain on the judicial system of the U.S. military."

The My Lai massacre — pronounced "mee lay" — is considered the nadir in modern Army history. More than 500 Vietnamese civilians were raped, tortured, stabbed and shot to death March 16, 1968, by three platoons of the boys next door.

A cover-up started that day would be dismantled bit by bit, leading to courts-martial and rep-



SOURCE: ESRI

AP/Stars and Stripes

rimands for a handful of officers.

But why it happened and who should be held responsible remained in dispute.

Should soldiers who said they were following orders be blamed or the superior officers in command? Was how America waged war in Vietnam responsible? Or was it something, however horrifying, that happens in all wars?

Fifty years and three U.S. wars later, there's still no clear consensus. Rather than serving as a lasting warning for servicemembers, My Lai has been all but forgotten in the ranks of today's armed forces.

Nadal blames the chain of command. Company C of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade (Light) of the 23rd (Americal) Division, like other Army units in 1968, had officers unequipped for command, men not among the best and the brightest, he said.

"Harvard wouldn't fight," Nadal said.

Badly trained, "shake-and-bake" noncommissioned officers added to the problem.

"Any NCO in that unit could have said, 'This is bullshit,' and stopped it," Nadal said. "Not one of them had the intellect, courage, character or discipline to say, 'Stop.'"

Atrocities have occurred in all wars, he said, but not in units commanded by competent lead-



RONALD HAEBERLE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Vietnamese women and children in My Lai are shown before being killed in the massacre. According to court testimony, they were killed seconds after the photo was taken. The woman on the right is adjusting her blouse buttons following a sexual assault.



Courtesy of Ramon Nadal

Capt. Tony Nadal, right, stands with Lt. Col. Hal Moore in Vietnam in 1966. Moore commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, at the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965, which was immortalized in a book and the 2002 movie "We Were Soldiers." Nadal blames the chain of command and NCOs unfit to lead for the atrocities at My Lai.

ers who troops respect and know will come down hard on abuse.

"It's easy to stop atrocities from happening," Nadal said. "If it happens in a unit, it happens because the chain of command blew it."

Retired Brig. Gen. John Johns, who served on a Pentagon task force created after My Lai that found 320 other atrocities substantiated by military investigators, disagreed.

"I don't believe it is preventable in these kinds of counterinsurgency wars," Johns said. "There will be atrocities regardless of how well the troops are trained and led. The frustration from seeing one's comrades led into ambushes ... can eat at discipline. And it goes back to the human instinct to demonize those outside our tribe," Johns said.

"I blame the national leaders who put troops in situations that they have no business being in."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

On the cover: A photo taken by U.S. Army photographer Ronald Haeberle in the aftermath of the My Lai massacre on March 16, 1968, shows mostly women and children dead on a road.

Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Massacre more than just an isolated incident

Contributing factors

The first comprehensive review of how and why My Lai and its cover-up occurred was done by Lt. Gen. William Peers. He had been assigned the task in November 1969 by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. William Westmoreland, just as news of the atrocity was breaking nationwide. At first, officials wondered whether the company had "an unusual number of men of inferior quality," Peers wrote. They pulled the soldiers' personnel files and test scores and found that the men of Charlie Company "were about average as compared with the other units of the Army."

The Peers Inquiry listed 13 contributing factors.

Among them were lack of proper training, lack of discipline, racist attitudes toward Vietnamese people, the ambiguity between combatants and civilians and a poor command climate from the company to the division levels.

Leadership lapses continued long after the massacre, the report said.

"Within the Americal Division, at every command level from company to division, actions were taken or omitted which together effectively concealed the ... incident. Efforts deliberately to withhold information continue to this day," the report said.

Historian Howard Jones, whose book "My Lai, Vietnam, 1968, and the Descent into Darkness" was published in June, said it was more than bad leadership in one division.

"Life is plentiful, life is cheap in the Orient," Westmoreland had said, and Jones said the U.S. military seemed to take that to heart in prosecuting a brutal war of attrition.

Massive bombing indiscriminately killed Vietnamese civilians.

"Body counts, free-fire zones, search-and-destroy missions," said Jones, a professor at the University of Alabama. "This is just a recipe for disaster."

As Johns' task force found, first reported by Deborah Nelson and Nick Turse in the Los Angeles Times in 2006, war crimes occurred throughout Vietnam.

Nelson and Turse, who gained access to the Vietnam War Crimes Working Group files gathering dust in the National



Courtesy of Chris Neely

The first comprehensive review of how and why My Lai and its cover-up occurred was done by Lt. Gen. William Peers.

Archives, reported that among the substantiated cases in the archive were:

■ Seven massacres from 1967 through 1971 in which at least 137 civilians died.

■ 78 other attacks on noncombatants in which at least 57 were killed, 56 wounded and 15 sexually assaulted.

■ 141 instances in which U.S. soldiers tortured civilian detainees or prisoners of war with fists, sticks, bats, water or electric shock.

The files contained 500 other alleged atrocities that Army investigators could not prove or that they discounted, Nelson and Turse reported.

Peers stressed that before My Lai, "there had been instances of mistreatment, rape and some unnecessary killings in Task Force Barker."

Some troops engaged in contests of raping women, Jones said, with "extra points for killing them."

Very few were prosecuted and almost none served jail time. "It helped form a pattern of behavior," Jones said.

A sort of state to civil wasn't difficult in Vietnam, Philip Caputo wrote in his 1977 book, "A Rumor of War."

"Everything rotted and corroded there: bodies, boot leather, canvas, metal, morals. Scorched by the sun, wracked by the wind and rain and the monsoon, fighting in alien swamps and jungles, our humanity rubbed off of us as the protective bluing rubbed off the barrels of our rifles."

'Flawed intelligence'

When Tony Nadal went to Vietnam in 1965, as the war's escalation and the anti-war movement were just getting started, more than 60 percent of Americans supported sending troops to the country.

Three years later, support had plummeted.

During a supposed truce in observation of Tet, the Vietnamese lunar New Year, on Jan. 30, North Vietnam troops launched a huge surprise assault that took 10 U.S. battalions nearly a month to beat back.

After that, only a third of Americans agreed that progress was being made. Nearly half said the U.S. should never have intervened in Vietnam.

On Feb. 27, CBS News anchor



AP

Capt. Ernest Medina, pictured in 1969, was the commanding officer of the units involved in the My Lai massacre.

Walter Cronkite, considered the nation's most trusted newscaster, told his millions of viewers that the war could not be won.

Two weeks later, on March 16, Capt. Ernest Medina led Charlie Company, part of Task Force Barker, into the hamlet of My Lai.

The unit had lost 28 soldiers from snipers, landmines and booby traps, and hadn't once seen the enemy, Jones said. The area was considered rife with Viet Cong fighters and civilian sympathizers.

"You've got all this fear and frustration. And then they got flawed intelligence, that up to 300 or 400 Viet Cong would be implanted in My Lai," Jones said.

That there were no Viet Cong fighters became clear early in the mission. No shots were fired at the troops, no weapons were found.

Platoon leader Lt. William Calley and his men nonetheless went to work, burning huts, raping women and girls, and killing with knives, grenades and machine guns.

Some soldiers testified later that they'd understood their orders were to lay waste to the village and kill everyone there because they were Viet Cong sympathizers. Officers denied it, and no such written orders were found, although it was acknowledged that the troops were ordered to kill the livestock, burn the huts and poison the wells,



AP

Ronald Haeblerle, the Army photographer on the mission, sold his photos of My Lai to Life magazine. Life's publication of the photos, along with reporting from journalist Seymour Hersh, led to broad public awareness of the atrocities. The photos originally ran in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.



AP

In 1971, Army 1st Lt. William Calley was sentenced to life in prison for murder. He served three years under house arrest.

and that there was no order as there should have been addressing the safeguarding of civilians.

One soldier shot himself in the foot to avoid his orders, turning the quintessential action of a coward into something almost self-sacrificing. He, like the rest of the soldiers, kept quiet about what they'd seen and done. "I just started killing any kind of way I could kill. It just came; I didn't know I had it in me," Varnado Simpson said in a 1982 TV interview, 15 years before he killed himself. "From shooting them to cutting their throats to scolding them to cutting off their hands and cutting out their tongue. I did that. And I wasn't the only one that did it; a lot of other people did it."

The exception was Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson and his two-gunner helicopter crew. "Something ain't right about this," Thompson said over his radio as he flew overhead. "There's bodies everywhere. There's a ditch full of bodies that we saw."

Thompson landed his helicopter repeatedly to confront and defy higher-ranking officers. He coaxed out a dozen villagers hiding in a bunker Calley and his soldiers were about to kill with grenades, and called in a gunship to evacuate them. "Y'all cover me," Thompson told his gunners, Larry Colburn and Glenn Ardretta, as he faced off against the U.S. infantrymen.

"If those bastards open up on me or these people, you open up on them."

Thompson officially reported the slaughter up the chain of command, which called off the rest of the operation and buried the report.

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Frank Barker called the operation in My Lai "well planned, well executed and successful" in his after-action report. He reported 128 "enemy" killed in action.

Brigade commander Col. Oran Henderson, informed by Thompson of all he'd seen, reported 20 noncombatants inadvertently killed in a crossfire between U.S. and Viet Cong forces.

Mag. Gen. Samuel Koster, Americal Division commander, insisted later to investigators that he'd reviewed and believed Henderson's report, which, unfortunately, had somehow gone missing.

But the truth would come out.



AP

Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson saved villagers and reported the slaughter. He received the Soldier's Medal in 1998.

Undeniable evidence

Ron Ridenhour, a former gunner in another unit, sent registered letters to some 30 lawmakers and officials in March 1969, telling them what other soldiers had told him.

"I asked 'Butch' several times if all the people were killed. He said that he thought they were — men, women and children," Ridenhour's letter said. "He recalled seeing a small boy, about 3 or 4 years old, standing by the trail with a gunshot wound in one arm. ... He just stood there with big eyes staring around like he didn't understand. ... Then the captain's RTO (radio operator) put a burst of 16 (M-16 rifle) fire into him."

The public didn't hear about it for another eight months until journalist Seymour Hersh, who'd gotten wind of Calley's upcoming court-martial, broke the story. The Army photographer who'd been on the My Lai mission, Sgt. Ronald Haeblerle, provided the photos to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which was the first to publish them. Hersh then sold his photographs to Life magazine.

About 30 men were charged with crimes connected to the massacre or the cover-up. About half of them were officers, most of them charged with dereliction of duty.

But charges were dropped or military jurisdictions acquitted. Only Calley, against whom there was overwhelming evidence, was convicted of a crime. In 1971 he was sentenced to life in prison for the murder, although he served only three years under house arrest before being freed.

Many of those who were at My Lai had left the service by the time the story broke. At the time, federal law provided no widely accepted way to prosecute former enlisted soldiers for crimes committed overseas while in uniform, although the Army's general counsel, Robert E. Jordan III, recommended in 1969 that the My Lai participants be tried before a special war crimes tribunal.

Eighty percent of Americans objected to Calley's prosecution, according to a contemporary Gallup poll.

Twenty percent said Calley was executing his superiors' lawful orders on the battlefield.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



A look at some of the key players in the My Lai massacre and its aftermath.
stripes.com/vietnam50

MILITARY

Legionella bacteria found at Landstuhl hospital

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease was found in two areas of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, prompting officials to order decontamination of the hospital's water system.

The hospital findings came a week after the Army announced it had to decontaminate some 20 housing units at Baumholder, a base about 35 miles away, after officials found high levels of the waterborne Legionella bacteria.

Inspectors tested LRMCC on Feb. 23 and notified the hospital Tuesday of elevated levels of Legionella bacteria, said hospital spokeswoman Stacy Sanning.

The hospital, which treats both locally based servicemembers and those medical-

ly evacuated from combat zones, immediately closed the affected areas and started planning the decontamination process.

It was unclear Thursday exactly which areas were affected, though a hospital message said the areas included showers.

Showers in water with high levels of Legionella is considered risky because the bacteria can be transmitted only by inhaling water vapor. Water with the bacteria is still regarded as safe to drink.

During the weekend starting Friday afternoon, pipes in the two affected areas will be flushed out with water at a temperature of 167 degrees Fahrenheit. Water at that temperature can cause burns after one second of exposure, prompting officials to recommend caution to anyone using faucets at the hospital during the cleaning.

After the pipes are flushed, they will be

retested for the bacteria, officials said.

In February, the German government began testing U.S. bases for Legionella.

"Although this is the first time testing has been done on U.S. installations in Germany (for Legionella), there have been no cases detected in [Department of Defense] beneficiaries from a DoD facility in Europe in at least 10 years," Sanning said in a statement.

While base doctors on Baumholder said that no one at the base has tested positive for Legionnaires' disease, a severe type of pneumonia, the potential for illness forced soldiers to leave their barracks to shower and left base residents concerned for their safety. Residents in one contaminated family housing unit, building 8024, were given keys to other buildings for showering.

Legionnaires' disease is characterized

by flu-like symptoms that appear within 10 days of exposure to the bacteria. Severe cases lead to hospitalization and 10 percent of cases end in death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Since January 2017, LRMCC has tested more than a thousand samples from patients with influenza-like illnesses, fever and respiratory symptoms, similar to what would be seen in Legionnaires' Disease," Sanning said. "None of these samples has been positive for Legionella."

The disease was identified in 1976 when 130 people were hospitalized and 25 died after attending an American Legion conference in Philadelphia. Legionella bacteria was discovered later in the hotel's air conditioning system.

morris.william@stripes.com
Twitter: @willatstripes

6 US soldiers hit by avalanche during mountain warfare training in Vermont

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Vt. — An avalanche hit six Army soldiers undergoing mountain warfare training near Vermont's highest peak Wednesday, sending five to the hospital.

Rescuers worked to evacuate the six soldiers training at Smugglers' Notch, a narrow pass at the northern edge of Mount Mansfield. The base of the notch is surrounded by steep cliffs on both sides.

Five soldiers were taken to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. Their injuries were not considered life-threatening. The sixth soldier returned to duty.

There is no word on what triggered the avalanche that hit about 1 p.m. The soldiers were brought down the mountain to waiting ambulances.

A photo posted by WCAX-TV shows one soldier on a stretcher.

Smugglers' Notch separates Stowe from Cambridge. The Stowe ski resort is on one side and Smugglers' Notch ski resort is on the other.

The Vermont Department of Public Safety said recent storms have created "extremely unstable conditions in steep terrain."

The U.S. Army's Mountain Warfare school is run by the Vermont National Guard. The Army website says the school provides tactical and technical training for mountain warfare and cold weather operations.

It's unclear what the soldiers were doing when the avalanche hit. But soldiers who take the winter training course, based at the Ethan Allen Training Center in Jericho, practice ice climbing in the notch as well as other cold-weather activities.



WCAX-TV/AP

In this still image from video, a U.S. Army soldier is evacuated on a stretcher following an avalanche Wednesday at the edge of Mount Mansfield in Cambridge, Vt.

MY LAI, FROM PAGE 9

Jimmy Carter, then Georgia governor, urged constituents to "honor the flag" as Calley had done, and to leave their headlights on to show their support. A song lauding him played on the radio.

Others considered Calley a scapegoat. "We only want this country to realize that it cannot try a Calley for something which generals and presidents and our way of life encouraged him to do," Vietnamese vet and future Secretary of State John Kerry said at an anti-war protest.

"And if you try him, then at the same time you must try all those generals and presidents and soldiers who have part of the responsibility. You must in fact try this country."

"If you were against the war, Calley was a war criminal writ large — but a dupe," said Ted Thomas, who served in Vietnam and teaches a class on the war at the Army Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "If you were on the right, he was just a soldier doing the best he could."

Setting standards

The Hague Conventions in the early 1900s set out the laws of war that required safeguarding the fundamental human rights of prisoners of war, wounded troops and civilians.

Later, the Nuremberg Principles stated that a soldier "just following orders," as numerous Nazi war criminals had claimed, was not an excuse: Illegal orders must not be obeyed.

Likewise "command responsibility" — the idea that higher ranking officers are responsible for atrocities committed by their troops — has been codified since the American Civil War.

After the execution of Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita for war crimes committed by troops in the Philippines in 1944 — despite there being no evidence that he approved or even knew of them — the doctrine was refined and given him the "Yamashita standard."

It said that officers who knew about — or should have known about — atrocities and failed either to prevent or stop them could be criminally prosecuted.

My Lai resulted in another standard: the "Medina standard," named for Capt. Ernest Medina, which clarified U.S. law to make command responsibility applicable not only to foreign officers but U.S. officers.

Calley testified he'd been following Medina's orders, and other witnesses testified to seeing Medina kill a woman lying injured. The Peers Inquiry found he'd possibly killed three people and that although aware of the massacre had done nothing to stop it.

Medina was acquitted of all charges.

"At least they tried," said Stjepan Mestrovich, a war crimes expert and sociology professor at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Since then, the Army has failed to even attempt to hold officers accountable for war crimes, he said, instead, scapegoating low-ranking troops.

The sexual humiliation and physical abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib in Iraq, for instance, was an "isolated incident" caused by "a few bad apples,"

then-Defense Sec. Donald Rumsfeld said in 2004.

The Son My Memorial depicts victims of the My Lai massacre.

AP

But in fact, harsh treatment and torture of detainees had been sanctioned at the highest government levels and occurred at a number of military prisons and "black sites."

"It's not just a bunch of bad apples. It's a whole orchard," Mestrovich said. "The Army protects high-ranking officers, it's that simple."

Lessons forgotten?

Historians say My Lai was the coup de grace to a founding counterinsurgency effort to win Vietnamese hearts and minds. It damaged military morale and increased revulsion to the war at home, they say.

The "lessons of My Lai" also provided a model for future soldiers of what not to do. Yet most enlisted troops have never heard of it, Nadal said.

Even West Point graduates, considered among the Army's best and brightest, struggle to recall it.

"It was an atrocity. ... It was a unit that was taking casualties, and they took it out on the village and committed atrocities," answered a lieutenant colonel recently asked what he knew about My Lai.

My Lai had been discussed in his philosophy class at West Point about just and unjust war, he said. But that was a couple of decades ago. His memory was hazy.

"I can't remember the name of the platoon leader," he said.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

MILITARY

Mission: Ex-general says working in Niger 'dangerous'

FROM FRONT PAGE

"It is dangerous," said Donald Bolduc, a retired brigadier general who commanded special operations forces in Africa until June. "Our guys are operating in areas very similar in environment to Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, but not with the same kinds of authorities and resources."

In recognition of the risks facing servicemembers, the Pentagon this month added Niger to the list of countries where U.S. troops will receive imminent danger pay while deployed.

While past violence escaped public scrutiny, the October ambush has put a spotlight on AFRICOM's operations in Niger, where there are roughly 800 troops deployed. Many of those servicemembers are helping build a new drone base in Niger. Others are special operations troops who conduct joint patrols with Nigerian soldiers involved in a battle against various militant groups.

In Niger's southeast, the Boko Haram group carries out cross border attacks. However, AFRICOM now says ISIS West Africa poses a larger danger across the region. The ISIS affiliate, made up of former Boko Haram fighters, broke away from its parent group in 2016.

Still, there are questions about how much of a threat such organizations pose to the U.S. While

such groups are hostile to the West, their grievances and ambitions tend to be local.

"Why should we care?" Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, asked AFRICOM's Gen. Thomas Waldhauser during a March 6 congressional hearing.

Waldhauser acknowledged extremists in places like Niger aren't an imminent danger to the U.S., but said that could change.

"At the present time, they do not have the capability to conduct operations in the United States, but they certainly aspire to do that," Waldhauser said. "We are trying to prevent something from happening before it does."

During the most recent December firefight in Niger, U.S. forces were operating within the scope of approved authorities.

"There was no aspect of this mission focused on pursuing enemy militants, and the combined force was postured to respond as necessary in case contact with the enemy occurred," Rebo said. "With that said, our forces do operate in unstable areas and are occasionally exposed to danger from enemy forces. When such a situation occurs, our personnel are authorized to respond to threats and violence appropriately."

vandiverjohn@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver



MICHAEL H. LEE, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

Arctic view

A sailor assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Hartford mans the sail after the boat surfaces through the ice cover Saturday in support of Ice Exercise 2018 in the Beaufort Sea.



Courtesy of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation

Russian submarines such as the Tula, above, are increasingly active in the North Atlantic.

EUCOM chief: Russian sub activity highest since 1980s

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russia submarine activity is at its highest levels since the 1980s as Moscow continues to invest heavily in its maritime capabilities, the top military commander in Europe said Thursday.

"They are deploying more and they are deploying at a higher rate," said Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, adding that the Russian navy is maneuvering regularly from the Arctic to the Mediterranean. "The forces they are deploying are being modernized, particularly with their weapons systems."

While the U.S. remains dominant under the sea, more investment will be needed to keep that edge, Scaparrotti told the House Armed Services Committee.

The Navy's fleet of fast-attack submarines is scheduled to dwindle from 52 to 42 by 2028, according to the Congressional Research Service, as Cold War-era boats reach their decommissioning dates.

The number wouldn't rise back to 52 until the 2030s over current estimates, even as the Navy plans to order two new Virginia-class submarines annually and

considers extending the lives of some of its aging Los Angeles-class subs.

In Europe, a more aggressive Russia is challenging the U.S. and its allies in conventional military ways that recall the Cold War, as well as with newer electronic methods.

For EUCOM, much of the focus has centered on deterring traditional threats.

U.S. patrols in the Black Sea have doubled, brigades are rotating regularly along NATO's eastern flank and efforts are underway to ensure the faster movement of forces in Europe, Scaparrotti said.

EUCOM would benefit from more permanently based forces to deter Russia, such as a fires and aviation brigade, Scaparrotti said.

Still, much of the challenge lies outside traditional military areas of operation, such as Russian information operations that seek to undermine the West and NATO, the general said.

EUCOM has a relatively new



Scaparrotti

command group focused on disinformation, but more coordination across the U.S. government is needed to deal with the threat, Scaparrotti said.

While Russia poses a conventional military threat, "the one big area where they are acting on a consistent basis is their disinformation, cyber campaign," Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said. "We are barely on the playing field at this point."

"We need a more robust effort," Scaparrotti said regarding a cyberoperations campaign, but added that such an effort would be led by the State Department.

"Right now, the State Department is not in a good place," Smith replied.

Meanwhile, it is too early to tell if the recent U.S. decision to provide lethal arms to Ukraine is altering Russia's calculus when it comes to backing separatists in the country's east.

"Ukraine is in what I would consider a hot fight right now, not a frozen conflict," Scaparrotti said. "It is not my belief Russia wants to resolve this conflict at this point."

vandiverjohn@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

DOD kicks off contest among tech firms for cloud-computing contract

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After months of scrutiny, complaints and at least one legal action, a group of Pentagon leaders sought to assure the country's top technology companies last week that the competition to build an internet cloud network for the Defense Department would be an open and fair competition.

Speaker after speaker in a packed hotel ballroom in Pentagon City, Va., stressed that the Defense Department needs

to upgrade its often-antiquated technology as a matter of urgent national security, and they insisted the program had the attention of the agency's top leaders.

Given the high stakes, the Pentagon's plans to pick a single winner have alarmed industry officials who fear the losers could be locked out of a multibillion-dollar program for a decade or more.

In a call with reporters after the meeting, Tim Van Name, the deputy director of the Defense Digital Service, said that having

a single cloud provider is the best approach because having several "would exponentially increase the overall complexity." With several providers, the Pentagon "would have to manage the seams between the applications," making it riskier and more difficult to manage.

Van Name vowed it would be an open, fair competition despite some concerns in the industry that Amazon's web services unit, which holds a \$600 million cloud contract from the Central Intelli-

gence Agency, has an advantage. "We want the best solution for the department," he said. "We have no favorites."

Defense officials have said moving Pentagon computing systems to the cloud is a vital tenet of the nation's strategy of staying ahead of countries such as China, which is investing heavily in technologies such as artificial intelligence.

For military leaders speaking at the March 7 meeting, it's all about getting decision-makers in-

formation more quickly. Much of the military's sensitive and confidential information is locked down on systems that can't communicate with each other. In some cases, the computers are not even connected to the internet.

The cloud procurement "is about ensuring the women and men who fight our nations' wars win. Period," Air Force Brig. Gen. David Krumm said. "And if you're not prepared for that, you don't need to be here."

WAR ON TERRORISM

A country in pieces

Hopes of democracy seem dim as Syrians mark 7 years of war

By ZEINA KARAM
AND PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BEIRUT — For Syrians marking seven years of war, their country has never looked as helpless or fragmented.

President Bashar Assad has decimated the rebellion, thanks to massive military aid from Russia and Iran, but foreign powers have carved out zones of influence across the country. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians are trapped in besieged areas, and heavy fighting is underway in the suburbs of Damascus and in the north, where al-Qaida-linked militants are clashing with rival insurgents and Turkish forces are battling a Syrian Kurdish militia.

The violence has accelerated even as the United States, Russia, Iran and Turkey worked diplomatic tracks to broker local truces and freeze the lines of conflict over the last year. Those efforts now appear to have been aimed at mapping out areas of influence.

"I don't even see Syria anymore," said Zaina Erhaim, a Syrian journalist who left the country in 2016 and now lives in London. It's called Syria on the map. But if you can't think about an ordinary Syrian who wants to go from Daraa to Idlib, can you think about how many countries or nationalities he's going to be passing to reach there?" she asked.

A short list would include the remnants of Syria's Western-backed opposition, Lebanon's Hezbollah and other Iran-backed Shiite fighters from as far away as Afghanistan, Syrian troops, Russian pilots, al-Qaida-linked jihadists, U.S.-allied Kurdish forces and Turkish tank crews.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria since Arab Spring protests erupted in 2011, after security forces arrested a group of teenagers who scrawled anti-Assad graffiti on a wall in the southern city of Daraa.

A demonstration calling for reforms in Damascus' Old City on March 15, 2011, is now widely seen as the start of the uprising. Three days later, security forces opened fire on a protest in Daraa, killing four people and driving first blood. The protests spread across the country, and nearly everywhere they were met with batons and bullets. Within months, the protesters began taking up arms and the cycle of bloodshed accelerated.

Today, hopes of democratic Syria seem distant, as the rebellion has splintered and the violence has spawned extremism. The activists who organized the initial protests have been hunted down or driven out of the country, either by Syria's feared security agencies or the jihadists that haunt "liberated" areas.

Around 5 million Syrians have fled the country, with most of them struggling to get by in neighboring countries as donor fatigue worsens by the year.

"The thing that's new is that for most of the Syrians living outside,

Civilians flee Ghouta as government forces overrun rebel troops

By LIZ SLY
AND LOUISA LOVELUCK
The Washington Post

BEIRUT — Thousands of people streamed out of the besieged Damascus suburb of Eastern Ghouta on Thursday as Syrian forces overran another part of the last major rebel stronghold outside the capital.

The exodus from the town of Hammouriya — part of the Eastern Ghouta enclave — came after an overnight battle that trapped civilians under a blitz of airstrikes that blocked their escape to other rebel-held areas, according to residents and human rights monitors.

The government advances come despite a U.N. Security Council Resolution nearly three weeks ago mandating a 30-day cease-fire.

Instead of stopping the fighting, the resolution seems to have triggered an accelerated push by the government to capture the enclave.

At least 1,540 people have been killed and nearly 6,000 injured since the resolution was unanimously passed Feb. 24, according to the Eastern Ghouta health directorate.

Throughout the day, Syrian state television broadcast live coverage of columns of families walking out of the town toward Syrian government lines, clutching children, suitcases and plastic bags of belongings.

Men were bowed under

heavy suitcases. Women carried children and torn plastic bags of clothes. An injured, blood-soaked man was carried on a stretcher. An elderly man pushed his wife in a wheelchair, another walked with a herd of cows.

Some walked silently past the camera, turning their faces away and refusing to talk. Others paused to speak, thanking the Syrian army.

The state-TV video was punctuated by the roar of warplanes overhead and the crashing thuds of explosions as the bombing of the enclave continued elsewhere.

Activists said they counted more than 300 airstrikes on Eastern Ghouta on Wednesday, with most of them concentrated on Hammouriya. Residents sent desperate pleas for help as the bombs rained down, with ambulances unable to reach the wounded.

"Whole families are killed. Their bodies are in the streets. No one can help due to the bombing and the shelters are burning with children and women and families," according to a message posted on a social media group by Nour Adam, an activist in Eastern Ghouta who said he had received the description from a friend inside Hammouriya.

Two hours later, he said, his friend stopped answering the phone.

Hundreds of American special operations forces are deployed across northern and eastern Syria, where they are patrolling alongside a Kurdish-led force to prevent ISIS from regrouping.

But their footprint is nowhere near the size of Iran's. Thousands of Iran-backed fighters from Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan have set up a constellation of bases across the country, part of a corridor of arms and influence stretching from Tehran to the Mediterranean Sea — and Israel's doorstep.

Israel has carried out numerous air raids in Syria to prevent the transfer of arms to Hezbollah, and over the past year it has repeatedly warned against the growing Iranian presence.

Syrian air defenses shot down an Israeli jet in February, the first time they are known to have done so since 1982.

Syrians say their own country has become an afterthought.

"Syria has been swallowed up," says Wannous, the novelist.



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Anti-Syrian government protesters flash victory signs in 2011 in the southern city of Daraa, during Arab Spring protests that eventually sparked Syria's civil war.



ABDULLAH AL-YASIN/AP

Free Syrian Army fighters fire at enemy positions in 2012 during heavy clashes with government forces, in Aleppo.



RAQQA MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP/AP

Islamic State fighters parade after overrunning Raqqa, in north Syria. The city eventually became the de facto capital of ISIS-controlled areas.



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

A Syrian army soldier places a Syrian national flag during a December 2016 battle with rebel fighters at the Ramouseh front line, east of Aleppo.

NATION



Evan Vucci/AP

Irish eyes on Trump

President Donald Trump meets with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at the White House on Thursday.

US accuses Russia of ongoing operation to hack energy grid

By MATTHEW LEE
AND JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration accused Russia on Thursday of a concerted, ongoing operation to hack and spy on the U.S. energy grid and other critical infrastructure, and separately imposed sanctions on Russian officials for alleged high-tech interference in the 2016 American presidential election.

U.S. national security officials said the FBI, the Homeland Security Department and American intelligence agencies determined that Russian intelligence and oth-

ers were behind the attacks on the energy sector. The officials said the Russians deliberately chose U.S. energy industry targets, obtaining access to computer systems and then conducting "network reconnaissance" of industrial control systems that run American factories and the electricity grid.

The U.S. government has helped energy businesses kick out the Russians from all systems currently known to have been penetrated, according to the officials. The officials, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive national security information, left

open the possibility of discovering more breaches, and said the federal government was issuing an alert to the energy industry to raise awareness about the threat and improve preparation.

The accusations and accompanying sanctions are some of the strongest actions to date by the administration to punish Russia for hacking and other efforts to sow discord in the American democracy.

Also Thursday, the U.S. joined Britain, France and Germany in a joint statement blaming Moscow for the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy who was living in England.

US sanctions 19 Russians for election actions

By MATTHEW LEE
AND JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Thursday imposed sanctions on 19 Russians for alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, including 13 indicted by special counsel Robert Mueller as part of his Russia-related investigation.

Also targeted were five Russian companies, including the Internet Research Agency, which is accused of orchestrating a mass online disinformation campaign to affect the election that Republican Donald Trump won over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The Treasury Department announced the sanctions amid withering criticism of Trump and his administration for failing to use the congressionally mandated authority to punish Russia for the election interference. Trump himself has been skeptical of the allegations.

The sanctions are the first use of the powers that Congress passed last year in retaliation for Moscow's meddling. The targets include officials working for the Russian military intelligence agency, GRU. Thursday's action freezes any assets the individuals and entities may have in the United States and bars Americans from doing business with them.

The department said in a statement that the GRU and Russia's military interfered in the 2016 election and were "directly responsible" for the NotPetya cyberattacks that hit businesses across Europe in June 2017.

"The administration is confronting and countering malign Russian cyberactivity, including

their attempted interference in U.S. elections, destructive cyberattacks, and intrusions targeting critical infrastructure," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "These targeted sanctions are a part of a broader effort to address the ongoing nefarious attacks emanating from Russia."

Among those penalized was Yevgeny Prigozhin, who is known as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "chef" and who ran the St. Petersburg-based Internet Research Agency, and 12 of the agency's employees. They were included in Mueller's indictment last month.

The Internet Research Agency "tampered with, altered, or caused a misappropriation of information with the purpose or effect of interfering with or undermining election processes and institutions," specifically the 2016 U.S. presidential race, the department said.

"The IRA created and managed a vast number of fake online personas that posed as legitimate U.S. persons to include grassroots organizations, interest groups, and a state political party on social media," the Treasury Department statement said. "Through this activity, the IRA posted thousands of ads that reached millions of people online."

The sanctions also affect the Russian Federal Security Service, or FSB, and six of its employees, for cyberattacks more broadly, including those targeting Russian journalists, opposition figures, foreign politicians and U.S. officials. The Americans include members of the diplomatic corps, the military and White House staffers.

Trump wrongly insists US has trade deficit with Canada

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump continues to insist the United States has a trade deficit with Canada, following news reports that he claimed at a fundraiser about talking trade with the country's prime minister without knowing all the facts.

Trump says on Twitter on Thursday: "We do have a Trade Deficit with Canada, as we do with almost all countries (some of them massive). P.M. Justin Trudeau of Canada, a very good guy, doesn't like saying that Canada has a Surplus vs. the U.S.(negotiating), but they do...they almost all do...and that's how I know!"

Trump, who routinely inflates trade deficits, has previously

complained about a trade deficit with Canada even though the U.S. runs an overall surplus with that country when the value of services is included in the calculation.

Trump spoke about trade during a fundraising speech in St. Louis on Wednesday, according to audio obtained by The Washington Post. The paper reported that Trump said he feasted with the facts when talking trade with Trudeau.

Trump said Trudeau told him there was no trade deficit. Trump said he replied, "Wrong, Justin, you do." I didn't even know... I had no idea. I just said, "You're wrong."

Trump claimed the figures don't include timber and energy.

Dylann Roof's sister accused of bringing weapons to her school

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The sister of the man sentenced to die for killing nine people at a South Carolina church in 2015 has been arrested at her school and charged with bringing pepper spray, a knife and marijuana onto the campus.

Morgan Roof, 18, was arrested Wednesday at A.C. Flora High School after a school administrator contacted the school resource officer, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said in a news release.

She is charged with two counts of carrying a weapon on school grounds and one count of simple possession of marijuana.



Morgan Roof

No one was hurt.

A judge set her bond at \$5,000 and said she could not return to the school. She was screened for a public defender.

It was not

known if she has an attorney yet. Investigators say Roof also posted a Snapchat about the National School Walkout day protest against gun violence that alarmed fellow students, but no charges

were filed for that message.

School principal Susan Childs posted a letter to parents on the school's Twitter page explaining what occurred while students walked out to remember the 17 killed in the Parkland, Fla., Valentine's Day school shooting.

"A student used social media to post a hateful message. The posting was not a threat, but was extremely inappropriate. That student was dealt with in a swift and severe manner as the posting caused quite a disruption," Childs wrote.

Dylann Roof was convicted of fatally shooting nine black parishioners at a Charleston church.

NATION

GOP eyes recount as Dem holds lead in Pa.

By BILL BARROW
AND MARC LEVY
Associated Press

CANONSBURG, Pa. — Republicans eyed a recount and a lawsuit over perceived irregularities in a closely watched U.S. House race in Pennsylvania where Democrat Conor Lamb clung to a slender lead Wednesday in the longtime GOP stronghold friendly to President Donald Trump.

With the last batch of absentee ballots counted, Lamb, 33, a former prosecutor and first-time candidate, saw his edge over Republican Rick Saccone shrink slightly, to 627 votes out of more than 224,000 cast, according to unofficial results.

The four counties in the Pittsburgh-area district reported they had about 375 uncounted provisional, military and overseas ballots. They have seven days to count

the provisional ballots, and the deadline to receive military and overseas ballots is next Tuesday.

With the margin so close, supporters of either candidate can ask for a recount.

The GOP is considering lodging a recount request, and county officials reported receiving a letter from a law firm requesting that they preserve their records, something the counties say they do anyway under state law.

Separately, Republicans pulled legal action, according to a person familiar with the deliberations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

Complaints could include that party lawyers were prevented from observing the counting of some absentee ballots, voting machines erroneously recorded votes from Lamb, and voters were confused by some information from

the state elections website.

Officials in Allegheny County, the most populous and Democratic-leaning county in the district, pushed back on Republican claims Wednesday, saying the lawyers had lacked written authorization from the GOP and they had received no reports Tuesday of malfunctioning voting machines.

The Associated Press has not called the race, which is seen nationally as indicator of Democratic enthusiasm and GOP vulnerability heading into the November elections that will determine whether Republicans retain their control of Congress.

Lamb has declared victory. Saccone, 60, an Air Force veteran-turned-state lawmaker and college instructor, hasn't conceded. Both men stayed out of sight Wednesday, and Saccone's campaign said that Saccone had no plans to

concede before vote counting was finished.

The counties, under state law, perform an audit of the results on the electronic voting machines that typically involves comparing the overall tally on a hard drive, a flash drive and a paper tape that separately record each vote. Deviations are a rarity, county officials say.

Absentee ballots are open to inspection to determine whether the person is eligible to vote or whether the voter's intent was clear, and that is more likely where a review might alter a final count, said Douglas Hill, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

But a difference is "never large numbers; it's always around the margins," Hill said.

Regardless of the outcome, Lamb's showing seemed certain to

stoke anxiety among Republicans nationwide and renew enthusiasm among Democrats.

Trump won the district by about 20 percentage points in 2016, and the seat has been in Republican hands for the past 15 years. It was open now only because Republican Rep. Tim Murphy, who espoused strong anti-abortion views, resigned last fall amid revelations that he had asked a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair to get an abortion.

Lamb asserted his independence from national Democratic leaders and played down his opposition to Trump.

But he also fully embraced organized labor in a district with influential labor unions and a long history of steel-making and coal-mining, hammering Republican tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich and promising to defend Social Security, Medicare and pensions.



United Airlines jets sit on the tarmac at LaGuardia Airport in New York on March 15, 2017. The airline has taken responsibility for an incident Monday in which a dog died on one of its planes after a flight attendant ordered its owner to put the animal in the plane's overhead bin.

United Airlines dogged by controversy

By HUGO MARTIN
Los Angeles Times

United Airlines, the carrier that endured harsh criticism last year when a passenger was dragged from an overbooked flight, is under the gun again.

This time the Chicago-based company is taking heat after it apologized for the death of a dog that was put — at the instruction of a flight attendant and in violation of airline policy — in an overhead compartment. A day later, United conceded that it mistakenly shipped another dog that was bound for Kansas City, Mo., to Japan.

"We take full responsibility and are deeply sorry for this tragic accident," United said Monday in response to the death of the dog in the overhead compartment.

The controversy involved a French bulldog that was in a small carrier on a flight from Houston to New York. A flight attendant, worried that the carrier did not fit under the seat, instructed the owner

to put the carrier in the overhead compartment, where the dog perished after the 3½-hour flight.

United said in a statement that the flight attendant didn't know the carrier contained a dog, and "did not knowingly place the dog in the overhead bin." The airline said its policy calls for owners to put dogs in carriers under seats or in the cargo hold.

In interviews with media outlets, the owner of the dog, 11-year-old Sophia Ceballos, said the flight attendant knew the dog was in the carrier. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals issued a statement calling for the flight attendant to be fired and charged with cruelty to animals.

United also acknowledged that, due to a mix-up Tuesday, a German shepherd bound for Kansas City from Oregon was accidentally flown to Japan. The owners of the German shepherd were instead presented at the airport with a greyhound that was supposed to fly to the island nation.

"An error occurred during connections in Denver for two pets sent to the wrong destinations," said United spokesman Jonathan Guerin. "We have notified our customers that their pets have arrived safely and will arrange to return the pets to them as soon as possible."

Though animal deaths involving commercial flights are rare, they spark outrage whenever they occur. In November, a college student who was flying home to Miami said an employee for Spirit Airlines refused to let her board with her miniature hamster, Pebbles, suggesting instead that she flush the creature down a toilet. The fearful girl did just that and later regretted it, hiring an attorney to consider legal action against Spirit.

In 2017, 24 animals died, 15 others were injured and one was lost on commercial flights, out of nearly 507,000 animals that were transported, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

2nd attorney with Trump ties linked to Daniels case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New documents show a second lawyer with ties to President Donald Trump was involved in legal efforts to keep adult film star Stormy Daniels from talking about her alleged affair with Trump.

Attorney Jill A. Martin signed the documents, which were filed Feb. 22 as part of confidential arbitration proceedings. She's referenced in the filing as counsel for "EC LLC," though the address she lists is that of Trump's Los Angeles golf club.

EC appears to be a reference to a company formed by Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to facilitate a \$130,000 payment to silence Daniels in the closing days of the 2016 presidential campaign. Cohen has acknowledged making the payment, but said he was not reimbursed and denied the campaign and the Trump Organization were involved in the transaction.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, confirmed the authenticity of the new documents to The

Associated Press. The documents were first reported by CNN and the Wall Street Journal.

Avenatti said the documents show that "contrary to Mr. Cohen's representations, there is little to no difference between EC LLC and The Trump Organization/Donald Trump."

In a statement late Wednesday, the Trump Organization said Martin worked on the filing in her "individual capacity" and the company "has had no involvement in the matter."

The White House says Trump has denied the affair with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

Earlier this month, Clifford filed a lawsuit seeking to invalidate her "hush agreement" because it was signed only by her and Cohen, but not Trump. She's also offered to return the money she was paid for agreeing not to discuss the alleged relationship.

Clifford alleges that she began an "intimate relationship" with Trump in 2006 and that it continued "well into the year 2007," according to the lawsuit.

Ex-Marine pleads guilty to killing as trial opens

VISTA, Calif. — After the prosecutor's opening statement, a former Marine changed his plea and acknowledged killing an Army reservist in a California motel in 2012 — a brutal attack in which the victim was stabbed 44 times and shot twice.

The Union-Tribune reported that defendant Kevin Coset, who represented himself in court, agreed Tuesday to plead guilty to murder and allegations that he used a gun and a knife to kill Alvin Baworo.

Prosecutors agreed to drop a special circumstance allegation,

which could have sent Coset to prison for life without parole.

The 27-year-old faces up to 51 years to life in prison when he is sentenced April 20.

Bulaoro, 24, went missing Dec. 21, 2012.

Nearly two weeks later, his body was discovered inside a sleeping bag in the backseat of his car outside a grocery store in Fallbrook, about 54 miles north of San Diego.

Prosecutors said messages between Coset and Bulaoro indicated they had a sexual relationship.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Girlfriend charged in samurai sword attack on boyfriend

Wash. gamer describes fight for his life

By KYLE SWENSON
The Washington Post

With her boyfriend finally asleep, Emily Javier allegedly reached for the samurai sword she had secretly taped earlier to the side of the bed.

According to an affidavit filed by police, the room was dark, and she sparked her phone to see better. To aim better.

Below snoozed Alex Lovell. He played too many videos games, Javier would later explain to the police, and now he was cheating on her, she claimed.

She knew the signs. Tinder on his phone. Scratches across his back. A girl's hair in their shower drain. In the weak phone glow, Javier allegedly started hacking.

Lovell woke to his girlfriend of two years attacking him with a sword, police say. Survival instincts — mainly martial arts training and all the Kung Fu films he had watched — clicked in.

"I was able to wing chun my way to survival," he told the Oregonian/OregonLive in an interview this week over Facebook messenger, referring to a Chinese martial art.

He eventually wrapped Javier in a bear hug.

"I saw the look in her eyes, and it scared the living poop out of me," he told the news outlet. "I told her I loved her, and she was killing me. She needed to call police, or I was going to die."

Javier broke off the attack and made the call, frantically telling a 911 operator she had stabbed her boyfriend and she thought he was dead.

"You used a sword?" the operator asked.

When police arrived on March 3, they found Lovell curled up in the blood-spattered bedroom, according to the probable cause affidavit filed by police in Camas, a Washington state town east of Portland, Ore.

Remarkably, he survived the attack despite serious injuries. Lovell almost lost the index, middle and ring fingers on his hand. But in a series of interviews this week, the competitive gamer sounded happy to be alive.

"I was just so proud for beating this samurai wannabe crazy lady with hate in her heart," the 29-year-old told The Oregonian/OregonLive. "I've been preparing my whole life for something like this."

'I was just so proud for beating this samurai wannabe crazy lady with hate in her heart. I've been preparing my whole life for something like this.'

Alex Lovell
samurai sword attack victim



ARIANE KUNZE, THE (VANCOUVER, WASH.) COLUMBIAN/AP

Emily Javier, of Camas, Wash., makes a first appearance in Clark County Superior Court on March 5 in Vancouver, Wash., on allegations that she stabbed her boyfriend with a samurai sword at their home.

Javier — who pleaded not guilty this week to first-degree attempted murder, according to the Columbian — had also allegedly been preparing.

Lovell — known as "Biggie" in his local gamer scene — is an avid player of "PlayerUnknown's Battleground," a multiplayer online fighting game. As he told The Oregonian/OregonLive, Lovell has been recently logging 12 to 13 hours a day playing the game.

The regimen also required "exercises for his hands, wrists and shoulders and also practicing mouse moves and techniques to maximize performance," the paper reported.

"I wasn't a sweaty nerd, more of an Ethlete," Lovell told the Oregonian/OregonLive.

In an interview with police after the attack, Javier, 30, admitted she was frustrated with her boyfriend for staying glued to his game.

Then, a week before the violent incident, Javier said she had discovered Lovell was unfaithful.

According to the affidavit, she told police she discovered Tinder, the dating app, on his phone. She also noticed scratches on his back, possibly from a romantic encounter. She found red hair in the shower drain — her own hair was dyed green.

She did not confront her boyfriend. In the past, he had just denied such accusations. This time Javier went to the mall and bought a samurai sword.

"I thought, I was gonna stab him while he was sleeping," she told police.

The relationship reached a crisis point on March 2. According to the police affidavit, Lovell came home but ignored his girlfriend.

She allegedly decided to go through with the attack, tapping the sword and two knives to the bed. Javier also told police she hid Lovell's phone so he could not call for help. When Lovell finally went to sleep, she reached for the sword.

In an interview with the Columbian this week, Lovell denied

he was unfaithful.

"I barely had time to hang out with my girlfriend, let alone another girl," he told the paper. "I didn't see it coming, but it makes sense that it happened. She obviously didn't want anyone else to have me so, samurai sword."

Doctors were able to reattach Lovell's fingers where they were nearly hacked off at the base. He also suffered wounds to his feet, legs, torso, neck and head.

His right arm is currently in a cast. Members of the local gaming scene set up a GoFundMe page for his medical bills. The fund is just \$2,000 shy of its \$10,000 goal after 10 days.

Javier remains in custody. Her attorney did not return an email request for comment.

"The feeling I had when I won the fight with my bare hands is just absolutely the best feeling," Lovell boasted this week from the hospital. "I've played all the sports, won big games, landed some decent tricks on my snowboard. This was better."

STARS AND STRIPES®

Have a subscription question or issue? We're here for you!

Contact us

Email
memberservices@stripes.com

Phone
CIV: 0049 631 3615 9111 or DSN: 583-9111

Hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NATION

Judge enters plea for accused Fla. school shooter

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — While students across the nation walked out of school to protest gun violence, the 19-year-old accused of killing 17 people and wounding more in the Florida school shooting sat in court silently, his head bowed.

Nikolas Cruz, shackled and wearing a red jail jumpsuit, sat motionless in the jury box and said nothing during a brief hearing Wednesday. Because he refused to announce his plea, Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf on each of the 34 counts he faces — mainly to keep the legal process moving.

His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Melisa McNeill, reiterated that Cruz would plead guilty if prosecutors waived the death penalty, which they refused to do. If he pleaded guilty, McNeill said Cruz would accept a sentence of 34 life terms behind bars. It's still possible a plea deal could be reached.

At least 20 green-clad deputies from the Broward County Sheriff's Office formed a tight ring of security around the courtroom. In the audience were several parents of shooting victims as well as Cruz's younger brother, Zachary.

Cruz is accused of carrying out the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., that also wounded 17 people in a case that has reignited a national debate about gun control and school safety. It also prompted Wednesday's nationwide walkout of thousands of students who showed solidarity with the Parkland students a month after the shooting.

While Cruz sat in the courtroom, more details of the shooting emerged as the Coral Springs Police Department released recordings of 911 calls and police radio traffic.

In the recordings, students and

dispatchers were uncertain about the shooter's location and how to hide from him.

Some were frightened the gunman would return to their location when asked if they could perform CPR on the wounded.

"Please, please, please, there are people here. They are bleeding. They are all going to die," a teenage girl calling from classroom 1215 said through tears and heavy breathing. "There's a lot of people around us that are injured, people that are injured, people that are bleeding. He is upstairs now."

Moments later, the girl starts screaming "They are coming in, oh no!" before discovering it was police officers who were entering the room.

At one point, the operator warned that the shooter was still in the hallway, advising the teacher to keep the students still. "Stay down, he's by your room, OK. Everyone be quiet."

The police radio recordings showed that the Coral Springs police officers were the first to enter the school building after confirming that Broward County sheriff's deputies had not gone in.

As they cleared each of the building's three floors, the officers described seeing shell casings on the floor and bullet holes in the windows.

They warned that the suspect may have changed clothes after they reported finding a camouflage jacket, ski mask and backpack on the first floor.

On the third floor, officers said they found an AR-15 with a magazine still attached.

The officers found wounded victims and bodies, and they prioritized evacuating the wounded before allowing other students and teachers to leave.

Cruz was arrested a few blocks away from the school.

His next hearing is scheduled for April 11.



RED HUBER, ORLANDO (FLA.) SENTINEL/AP

A Homeland Security K-9 officer approaches Bob Kunst, of Miami Beach, Fla., who came to make a statement outside federal court Wednesday in Orlando, Fla., where the widow of the man who shot 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando is going on trial.

Trial of Orlando killer's wife opens

By TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jurors at the trial of the widow of a man who shot and killed 49 people at a Florida nightclub heard emotional accounts of what unfolded that evening.

On Wednesday, the first day of the trial, jurors listened to a witness who hid under a dead body for three hours as shots were fired and an Orlando police detective who choked up on the stand. They also watched a video taken during the shooting by a survivor inside the club.

Federal prosecutors are trying to link Nor Salmaan, 31, to the actions of her husband Omar Mateen. First, they must establish that a terrorist act was committed when he killed 49 in June 2016 at the gay club in Orlando. Prosecutors said he was motivated by Islamic terrorism.

"This trial is about what the defendant knew," Assistant U.S. Attorney James Mandolfo said. "The

defendant's cold actions gave Omar Mateen a green light to commit these crimes on behalf of ISIS."

Mateen, who had pledged allegiance to Islamic State, was killed by police in the hours after the shooting.

Prosecutors said Salmaan knew Mateen was buying rounds of ammunition for his AR-15, helped him spend thousands of dollars before the attack and knew about his plan when he left the house in the hours before the shooting. They also say she lied, tried to mislead FBI agents and had knowledge of her husband's sick fascination with violent jihadi videos and terrorism.

Mandolfo gave several examples of Salmaan's conflicting statements to FBI agents in the hours after the attack.

He described a wife who knowingly went to at least two locations with Mateen to "scout" sites of potential terrorist attacks.

"What would make people more upset, an attack at a club or an at-

tack at Disney?" Mateen asked his wife, according to Mandolfo.

Salmaan's attorney, Linda Moreno, argued in opening statements that some of the claims are contradicted by cellphone records and other evidence. She said Mateen decided to go to Pulse last night.

When Salmaan was questioned by federal agents, she cooperated, said Moreno, adding that her client never asked for a lawyer and consented to a home search. The FBI in their hours-long questioning manipulated and coerced her, Moreno asserts.

"Nor Salmaan denied any knowledge of Omar Mateen's plans for hours," she said, adding that agents told Salmaan that she could go to jail and not see her child.

Her attorney said Mateen had a secret life that involved meeting women online and cheating on Salmaan. Salmaan was arrested in 2017 in California, where she was staying with family, and has been jailed since then.

Lawsuit: Trans woman was ordered to strip during attempt to visit sibling in La. prison

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A transgender woman who tried to visit her incarcerated brother claims Louisiana prison officials ordered her to remove her underwear and told her she would have to reveal her genitalia before she could leave the facility.

China Nelson, 48, a New Orleans resident, said in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that officers at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola insisted on searching her vehicle after she refused to take off her pants and underwear.

Nelson, who sued under her given name Donald, filed the federal suit against the state Department of Public Safety and Corrections. It accuses several unnamed prison guards of violating her Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Department of Corrections

spokesman Ken Pastorick said the department doesn't comment on pending litigation.

The suit seeks unspecified punitive damages and compensation for Nelson's "emotional distress." It also asks the court for an order barring prison officials from engaging in similar discriminatory conduct.

Nelson's suit says guards stopped her from entering the maximum-security prison last September after a body screening machine detected an "unknown object" in her pants. "When an unknown guard stated that she saw 'something' in Ms. Nelson's pants, Ms. Nelson acknowledged that she was born a male as indicated on her driver's license in an effort to explain the 'something' the guard stated she saw," the suit says.

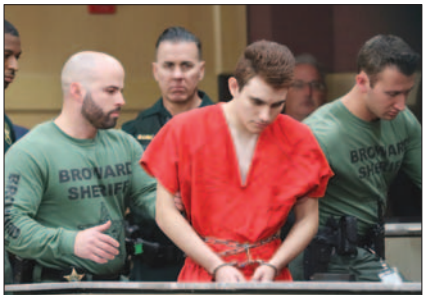
One of Nelson's attorneys, Galen Hair, said his client should have

been treated the same as any man who is screened for a prison visit.

After two guards escorted her to a men's restroom and instructed her to remove her pants and underwear, she refused and said she would forego the visit and wait in her vehicle while her mother and a brother visited her other brother, the suit says.

A supervisor and approximately nine other guards insisted on "shaking down" the vehicle and told Nelson that she "would have to reveal her genitalia before being permitted to leave the premises," the suit says. Nelson said she consented only to the search of her vehicle. Prison officials ultimately canceled the visit by Nelson, her mother and brother.

Nelson had been on the prison's "approved visitor list" for 14 years without issue before the Sept. 10, 2017, visit, according to Hair.



AMY BETH BENNETT, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

Nikolas Cruz is led into the courtroom before being arraigned Wednesday at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

PIZZA MADNESS!



AVAILABLE IN SELECT
EXPRESS LOCATIONS
NEAR YOU



ALL TOPPINGS NO EXTRA CHARGE®



only \$9⁹⁹

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Family finds an 8th valuable baseball card

CA LOS ANGELES — What could be better than becoming a millionaire after finding seven vintage baseball cards while cleaning out your late great-grandfather's house?

How about finding an eighth? The anonymous family that two years ago made one of the greatest finds in sports collectibles history when they found seven Ty Cobb baseball cards printed between 1909 and 1911 have now found one more in the matching set. Those first seven sold for about \$3 million.

They intend to hang on to the eighth, which was verified by Professional Sports Authenticator of Newport Beach, Calif., and valued at \$250,000.

Police to get cat after Twitter campaign

MI TROY — An eastern Michigan police department will get a police cat following a successful social media campaign.

The Troy Police Department launched an initiative March 6 to reach 10,000 Twitter followers by April, with the incentive of adding a furry feline to their team. The department had just over 4,000 followers when the campaign began.

The #WeWantAPoliceCat movement took just eight days to reach the goal.

Sgt. Meghan Lehman said the department will work with the Humane Society to bring in a cat. The animal will be used for therapeutic purposes.

Couple takes 165 poor kids to see movie

MD BALTIMORE — A Baltimore couple took 165 kids from across the area — and their chaperones — to see "Black Panther."

The Baltimore Sun reported the philanthropists Cesar Mayfield Banks and husband Kenneth Banks were inspired by similar tales and answered the call by several black actors and sports stars who challenged the call to take poor kids to see the film.

The Bankses and all 165 kids, each armed with a soda and popcorn, packed in to a Towson Cinemark theatre on March 9.

Man gives wife kidney for 23rd anniversary

FL HOLLYWOOD — For their 23rd wedding anniversary, Cesar Calle gave his wife, Monica, a kidney.

The couple from Weston spoke to reporters Tuesday about their Feb. 19 surgeries at Memorial Regional Hospital. It was the first successful live donor kidney transplant at the Hollywood hospital where Monica Calle works.

Medical team leader Dr. Juan Arenas said it's unusual to find a match between spouses.

It took 30 health care workers to get the couple through the process and they went home from the hospital early.

THE CENSUS

\$100K

The value of diamond jewelry that was accidentally dumped in the garbage in Gainesville, Ga. Hall County Solid Waste Director Johnnie Vickers told WSB-TV a woman made a distraught call to one landfill, saying she had accidentally thrown out her jewelry. Vickers assembled a team of five employees to help sift through the trash. After checking logs they narrowed their search to a 20-minute window and 9 to 10 tons of garbage. Hours later the employees picked up one last bag and it had the jewelry inside.



TERRY PIERSON, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS/AP

A tow from above

A blimp tows skiers on Lake Elsinore, Calif., on Tuesday. The blimp towed skier Kari McCollum for 6.9 miles for a new record, according to Philip Robertson, an adjudicator with Guinness World Records. The old mark for a water skier being towed by a blimp was nearly 5 miles.

Man called Meteorologist running for office

PA LANCASTER — A former television weatherman who legally changed his name to Meteorologist Drew Anderson said there's a 100 percent chance of politics: He's pursuing a run for Congress in Pennsylvania under the new moniker.

LNP reported Anderson is collecting signatures to get on the Republican primary ballot for a run against U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker. Anderson said he's looking for a climate change in Washington.

LNP said the weatherman changed his name from Drew Anderson last year and left his job at WMPT-TV Fox 43 two weeks ago.

800 tons of trash removed from property

WA CENTRALIA — Lewis County crews finished cleaning up a hoarder property after nearly a month. The Chronicle reported that

Steve Skinner, leader of the solid waste division of Lewis County Public Works, said that nearly 800 tons of assorted trash was removed from the Centralia property, costing the county about \$98,000.

Crews removed the most hazardous material — more than 80 junk vehicles and gallons of used cooking oil — last fall. Contractors tore down six buildings on the property.

Eatery asks reservations held by postcard

ME FREEDOM — A nationally acclaimed restaurant in small-town Maine is asking diners to send postcards to reserve a table.

The Portland Press Herald reported The Lost Kitchen in Freedom is taking postcards for its 2018 reservation requests. The change comes after owner Erin French received 10,000 phone calls from eager diners last year. Word of mouth, magazine mentions and a Tastemade video that got 2 million views put the 40-seat restaurant in

Freedom on the map.

The restaurant is accepting reservations for its May to October seating between April 1 and April 10. French and her staff will hold a drawing until all seats are claimed.

Elaborate sandcastle damaged by vandals

TX SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — Police say vandals damaged an elaborate sandcastle located in front of the South Padre Island Visitors Center.

South Padre Island police are seeking four men in connection with the \$24,000 in vandalism discovered during spring break. Authorities believe one of the suspects also climbed a flagpole and stole the South Padre Island flag.

The sandcastle featured 2018 "Welcome" and "Happy Easter" greetings, along with stylish sand renderings of structures and animals.

South Padre Island police are checking security video for fur-

ther clues in locating the suspects, who could face criminal mischief and theft charges.

Woman arrested after meth found in bra

SC SPARTANBURG — A South Carolina woman was arrested after officers found methamphetamine in her bra at a county jail.

The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported Allison Nicole Bridgeman, 38, of Landrum was charged Monday with possession of meth and contraband when the drug was found at the Spartanburg County jail.

A police report said Bridgeman was in a vehicle with an incorrect license plate and was stopped by sheriff's deputies. She handed the deputy a small container of meth at the time.

She was taken to the county jail where a search revealed another bag of meth in her bra.

From wire reports

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

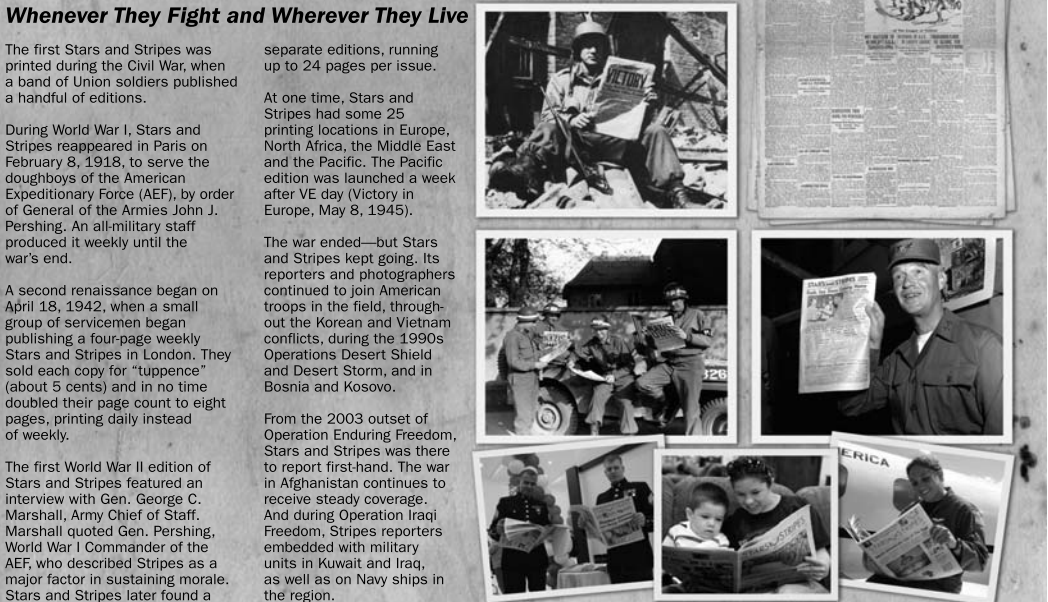
Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2015 Columbia Journalism School Dart Awards

Feature Story Reporting
(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Finalist: Martin Kuz: "Army Sgt. Isaac Sims left the war in Iraq, but it didn't leave him"

2014 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Feature Story Reporting

(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Death shapes life for teens that prepare bodies of fallen troops for final flight home"

2014 VFW News Media Award

For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2011 Military Photographer of the Year

Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMott

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography

(Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism

Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage
(< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabirow

2010 National Headliner Awards

First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism

George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charles Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lewis Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award

Ground Truth Award

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award

First Amendment, Finalist

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Toys R Us planning to liquidate US operations

By ANNE D'INNOZENIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Toys R Us is headed toward shuttering its U.S. operations, jeopardizing the jobs of some 30,000 employees while spelling the end for a chain known to generations of children and parents for its sprawling stores and Geoffrey, its giraffe mascot.

The closing of the company's 740 U.S. stores over the coming months will finalize the downfall of the chain that succumbed to heavy debt and relentless trends that undercut its business, from online shopping to mobile games.

CEO David Brandon told employees Wednesday the company's plan is to liquidate all of its U.S. stores, according to an audio recording of the meeting obtained by The Associated Press.

Brandon said Toys R Us will try to bundle its Canadian business, with about 200 stores and find a buyer. The company's U.S. online store still would be running for the next couple of weeks in case there's a buyer for it.

It's also likely to liquidate its businesses in Australia, France, Poland, Portugal and Spain, according to the recording. It's already shuttering its business in the United Kingdom. That would

leave it with stores in Canada, central Europe and Japan, where it could find buyers for those assets.

Toys R Us had about 60,000 full-time and part-time employees worldwide last year.

Brandon said on the recording that the company would be filing liquidation papers and there would be a bankruptcy court hearing Thursday.

"We worked as hard and as long as we could to turn over every rock," Brandon told employees. He put much of the blame on its woes on the media, saying negative stories about the company's prospects scared customers and vendors.

The Wayne, N.J.-based company declined to comment.

The chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last fall saddled with \$5 billion in debt that hurt its attempts to compete as shoppers moved to Amazon and huge chains like Walmart.

It pledged then to stay open, but Brandon told employees that it had a "devastating" sales performance during the critical holiday season as nervous customers and vendors shied away. That made its lenders more skittish about investing in the company. In January, it announced plans to close

about 180 stores during the next couple of months, leaving it with a little more than 700 stores.

The company's troubles have affected toy makers Mattel and Hasbro, which are big suppliers to the chain. But the likely liquidation will have a bigger impact on smaller toy makers, who rely more on the chain for sales. However, many have been trying to diversify in recent months as they worried about the chain's survival.

Toys R Us also was hurt by the shift to mobile devices as they take up more play time. But steep sales declines during the holidays and thereafter were the deciding factor, said Jim Silver, who is editor-in-chief of toy review site TTPM.com.

The company didn't do enough to emphasize that it was reorganizing but not going out of business, Silver said. That misperception led customers to its stores because they didn't think they would be able to return gifts.

Now, the \$11 billion in sales still happening at Toys R Us each year will disperse to other retailers like Amazon and discounters, analysts say. Other chains, seeing that Toys R Us was vulnerable, got more aggressive. J.C. Penney opened toy sections last fall in all

875 stores. Target and Walmart have been expanding their toy selections. Even Party City is building up its toy offerings.

"Amazon may pick up the dollars, but won't deliver the experience needed for a toy retailer to survive and thrive in today's market," said Marc Rosenberg, a toy marketing executive.

Toys R Us had dominated the toy store business in the 1980s and early 1990s, when it was one of the first of the "category killers" — a store totally devoted to one thing. Its scale gave it leverage with toy sellers and it disrupted general merchandise stores and mom-and-pop shops. Children sang along with commercials about "the biggest toy store there is."

But the company lost ground to discounters like Target and Walmart, and then to Amazon, as even nostalgic parents sought deals elsewhere. GlobalData Retail estimates that nearly 14 percent of toy sales were made online in 2016, more than double the level five years ago. Toys R Us still has hundreds of stores, and analysts estimate it still sells about 20 percent of the toys bought in the U.S.

But Toys R Us' biggest albatross was its massive debt load

since private-equity firms Bain Capital, KKR & Co. and Vornado Realty Trust took it private in a \$6.6 billion leveraged buyout in 2005. The plan had been to take the company public again, but weak sales have prevented that from happening. With such debt levels, Toys R Us did not have the financial flexibility to invest in its business. The company closed its flagship store in Manhattan's Times Square, a huge tourist destination that featured its own Ferris wheel, about two years ago.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 16)	\$1.2669
Dollar buys (March 16)	€0.7893
British pound (March 16)	\$1.43
Japanese yen (March 16)	¥104.00
South Korean won (March 16)	₩1,039.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound (March 16)	\$1.3957/0.7165
Canada (Dollar)	1.3027
China (Yuan)	6.3217
Denmark (Krone)	6.0394
Egypt (Pound)	17.6382
Euro	\$1.2333/0.8108
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8416
Hungary (Forint)	252.21
Israel (Sheqel)	4.4410
Japan (Yen)	105.91
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2999
Norway (Krone)	7.0953
Philippines (Peso)	52.08
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3113
South Korea (Won)	1,067.12
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9471
Thailand (Baht)	31.17
Turkey (Lira)	3.8966

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.42
3-month bill	1.67
30-year bond	3.06

EURO GAS PRICES

Country	Super	E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.848	\$3.132	\$3.367	\$3.265	—
Change in price	-0.1 cents	-0.2 cents	-0.6 cents	-1.6 cents	—
Netherlands	—	\$3.473	\$3.617	\$3.663	—
Change in price	—	-3.9 cents	-3.9 cents	-0.1 cents	—
U.K.	—	\$3.077	\$3.312	\$3.210	—
Change in price	—	-0.2 cents	-0.6 cents	-1.6 cents	—
Azores	—	—	\$3.310	—	—
Change in price	—	—	-0.6 cents	—	—
Belgium	—	\$2.876	\$3.104	\$3.141	—
Change in price	—	no change	no change	no change	—
Turkey	—	—	\$3.188	\$3.086*	—
Change in price	—	—	-0.6 cents	-1.6 cents	—
Italy	\$4.050	—	—	\$4.088	—
Change in price	no change	—	—	no change	—

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	—	\$3.109	—	\$3.009
Change in price	—	-1.0 cents	—	-2.0 cents
Okhawa	\$2.589	—	—	\$3.009
Change in price	no change	—	—	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.629	\$2.909	\$3.149	\$3.049
Change in price	no change	no change	-1.0 cents	—
Guam	\$2.629**	\$2.909	\$3.149	—
Change in price	no change	no change	no change	—

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of March 17-23

MARKET WATCH

March 14, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	-248.91
Nasdaq composite	-14.20
Standard & Poor's 500	-15.83
Russell 2000	-7.74
	1,584.31

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND

David Byrne's
tough questions
Music, Page 36

TAKING CHARGE

Alicia Vikander
steps into Lara Croft's
combat boots as
the best part of
'Tomb Raider'
origin story

Movies, Page 24

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



NHL takes esports on ice with gaming tournament

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Rob Simmelkjaer got his introduction to hockey playing "NHL 94" on Sega Genesis.

"I got to know the players and the teams, who played what position," the NBC Sports executive recalled. "I think that's something that the NHL can benefit from by putting esports front and center."

The NHL did just that this month, following the lead of the NBA, NFL, FIFA and other leagues that have already established esports leagues in a burgeoning market. The 2018 NHL Gaming World Championship is a first step toward a potential version of the seasonlong NBA 2K League that's set to begin in May, or perhaps eMLS on "FIFA 18."

Players will be able to match up 1-on-1 in EA Sports NHL 18 qualification rounds. That will be followed by regional finals in the United States, Canada and Europe on PlayStation 4 and Xbox One, and then the June 19 championship at Esports Arena Las Vegas during the NHL Awards with a prize pool of \$100,000.

The hope is to land new fans and connect with current fans in a different way.

National Amusements programming and corporate development executive Kevin Mitchell thinks esports ventures are ways for leagues to make fans of young people who get their sports largely

through their smartphones or computers. According to Newzoo's 2016 Esports Consumer Insights, 28 percent of hockey fans are 21-35, while 49 percent of esports enthusiasts are in that age bracket.

"We have a very attractive fan base," NHL executive vice president and chief revenue officer Keith Wachtel said. "It's young, it's very tech-savvy, and millennials these days, which is really the gamer, are consuming sports in a much different way. This is the opportunity for us to reach out specifically to that generation who play our game, who are on social media and look at this as one of the ways that they interact with the sport."

For a sport grappling with challenges of getting kids interested in hockey in places where ice time and equipment can be expensive and difficult to come by, this is another possible route. Mitchell said about 50 U.S. colleges now offer esports scholarships.

Esports might be a way for the NHL to grow its audience in China, where it already broadcasts regular-season games and hosting exhibitions ahead of the 2022 Olympics.

"China is a huge gaming population," WorldGaming and Collegiate StarLeague CEO Wim Stoks said. "What better way to help bring the game of hockey to China than through video gaming? I think the NHL has a great opportunity."

ON THE COVER: Alicia Vikander stars in "Tomb Raider."

Warner Bros. Pictures

GADGET WATCH

Device helps you sleep restfully, wake energized

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Zenergy from iHome has a simple goal: You should sleep restfully and wake energized. Well, at least that's the goal for most, and the past few nights I've used it on my nightstand and definitely seen a positive effect.

The Zenergy (model iZBT10) bedside sleep therapy machine is designed with flame-free candles to deliver meditative lighting along with sound therapy, all controlled with the push of a button.

Inside the 5.56-by-5.83-by-4.96-inch device are 11 full-color light therapy and decor lighting modes. You also have a choice of 10 sound therapy presets, including natural sounds of the ocean, nature and storms.

The iOS iHome Zenergy App lets you select the sleep settings with descriptions of each, timers and light settings.

Along with the sleep functions, you'll have the usual great features iHome products are known for: solid bedside sound, dimmable clock display, FM radio, dual alarms and a USB charging port for using your cable to charge a portable USB device. Bluetooth will let you stream music from your personal device or connect directly with the aux-in port.

Online: ihomeaudio.com; \$99.99

I almost feel like running over Zagg's new Rugged Book with my car. And that's not intended as an insult to the product. I think the durable wireless, magnetic-hinged keyboard with a detachable case is so tough, it could withstand the test.

The case has four protective layers, which enable your tablet to withstand a drop from up to 6.6 feet, according to military drop-test standards. The layers are built with stainless steel, polycarbonate and rubber, with dimensions of 9.84-by-7.20-by-1.10 inches. The case does add some weight to your tablet, but if you're using your tablet in rugged environments, there's no doubt that this is for you.

Along with its ruggedness, the case is versatile with an adjustable cradle hinge to view your tablet from multiple angles. Or you can detach the case from the keyboard entirely. Even the case is detachable. A Bluetooth connection will allow you to type on

The new Rugged Book has four protective layers and can withstand a drop from up to 6.6 feet.

ZAGG/TNS



ZENERGY/TNS

The Zenergy (model iZBT10) bedside sleep therapy machine provides meditative lighting and sound therapy to enhance users' sleep.

the laptop-style keyboard.

The keyboard has a rechargeable battery, which is good for a few years depending on how much it's used. A built-in sleep function saves the power when not in use.

Online: zagg.com; \$129.99 The Rugged Book Wireless Keyboard & Detachable Case is compatible with the Apple iPad, 9.7-inch iPad Pro, iPad Air and iPad Air 2

ArmorAll's new premium dashboard camera works perfectly, but what impressed me was the easy setup.

It takes just minutes to get the HD camera secured to a windshield or dashboard to record your whereabouts on a microSD memory card (not included). Memory cards of up to 32 GB are supported.

The HD camera has 120-degree wide-angle lens on the front, and a 3-inch LCD on the back. It swivels 360 degrees to help achieve the

right viewing and recording angle. Inside is an active G-sensor, which has collision and motion detection.

Recordings are in full 1080p HD. A car charger and micro USB charging cable is included.

Online: armorall electronics.com; \$45.99



ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes for the week ending March 8:

1. "God's Plan," Drake
2. "Top Off" (feat. Jay-Z, Future & Beyoncé), DJ Khalid
3. "No Excuses," Meghan Trainor
4. "The Middle," Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
5. "Meant to Be" (feat. Florida Georgia Line), Bebe Rexha
6. "Whatever It Takes," Imagine Dragons
7. "The Champion" (feat. Ludacris), Carrie Underwood
8. "Perfect," Ed Sheeran
9. "You Make It Easy," Jason Aldean
10. "Play For Me," The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar

— Compiled by AP

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify for the week ending March 11:

1. "God's Plan," Drake
2. "Psycho" (feat. Ty Dolla Sign), Post Malone
3. "All the Stars," Kendrick Lamar & SZA
4. "FRIENDS" (feat. Marshmello), "IDGAF," Dua Lipa
6. "The Middle," Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
7. "Look Alive" (feat. Drake), BlocBoy JB
8. "Mine," Bazzi
9. "These Days" (feat. Jess Glynne, Macklemore & Dan Caplen), Rudimental
10. "SADI!", XXXTENTACION

— Compiled by STARS and STRIPES

ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending March 11:

1. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle"
2. "Thor: Ragnarok"
3. "Coco"
4. "The Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
5. "Darkest Hour"
6. "Lady Bird"
7. "The Shape of Water"
8. "Murder On the Orient Express"
9. "Blade Runner 2049"
10. "I, Tonya"



— Compiled by AP

BOOKS

The top 10 books on iBooks for the week ending March 11:

1. "The Girl Before," J.P. Delaney
2. "A Wrinkle in Time," Madeleine L'Engle
3. "The Great Alone," Kristin Hannah
4. "Come Sundown," Nora Roberts
5. "The Escape Artist," Brad Meltzer
6. "Red Sparrow," Jason Matthews
7. "The Wife Between Us," Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen
8. "Little Fires Everywhere," Celeste Ng
9. "The Woman in the Window," A. J. Finn
10. "The Lost Island," Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child

— Compiled by AP

APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending March 11:

1. Minecraft
2. Pocket Build
3. Heads Up!
4. Plague Inc.
5. Bloons TD 5
6. Facetime
7. iSchedule
8. Minds On Physics the App — Part I
9. Geometry Dash
10. My Talking Pet

— Compiled by AP

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

James Purefoy, left, is Hap Collins and Michael K. Williams plays Leonard Pine on "Hap and Leonard."

Sundance TV

1

Find treasure with 'Hap and Leonard'

If you liked "Justified," you might also enjoy TV's "Hap and Leonard." James Purefoy ("Rome"), Michael K. Williams ("The Wire") and Christina Hendricks ("Mad Men") star in this boozy and darkly comic tale of two best friends, one sexy ex-wife, a crew of washed-up revolutionaries, some psycho killers and a get-rich-quick scheme. The six-hour adaptation of novels by Joe R. Lansdale puts its own spin on swamp noir.

• 'Hap and Leonard' airs Mondays on AFN-Spectrum.

2

'Justice League' reaches DVD

Poor DC Comics. It can't be easy, watching rival Marvel churn out superhero blockbuster hits one after another. Granted, DC struck gold with "Wonder Woman" last year, but even her presence can't quite rescue "Justice League." Still, if you're itching for something to rent this weekend, it has its moments.



• More DVD releases on Page 39.

3

'Vermintide II' a fun team effort

Those looking for an excuse to try the co-op fantasy game "Warhammer: Vermintide II" can argue that it rewards, and even flat-out requires, teamwork. The sequel retains all that was great about the game's first iteration and makes a few improvements. Short mission structures means taking juuust one more outing is downright addictive.



• Game review on Page 26.

4

Vikander goes to bat for film with Fallon

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander's "Tomb Raider" promotional tour recently took her to "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon." Host Fallon, as he so often does, created a ridiculously silly game for the two to play that involved twirling around a baseball bat and shooting toy arrows at plates. Fallon's wacky stunts are certainly undignified, but it is good fun to see celebrities appear to let their guards down. Vikander says she's done the bat-twirling thing before in Sweden; perhaps it's what Swedes do when the vodka runs out.

• Watch them at tinyurl.com/y9d65psy.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Alicia Vikander gets to play with more realistic-looking fake weapons in "Tomb Raider."

WEEKEND: MOVIES



What others are saying

Lara Croft has always been tough and strong, but she was known far more for her sexy, cosmetic assets. This Lara is worth looking at not for her sex appeal but for her strength and skill—for what she can do. Her physicality functions to run, fight and survive, and Alicia Vikander is astonishingly ripped in this film. The only doubtless Ds here are her deltoids. ... This fresh, modern and grounded approach to Lara Croft has you in its chokehold before you can resist. Might as well go along for the rest of the ride.

—Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

NEW ACTION HERO

Vikander shines in fun, visually compelling 'Tomb Raider'

BY LINDSEY BAIH
Associated Press

In "Tomb Raider," which has elements of "Indiana Jones," "Batman" and even "Tron: Legacy," but with an angry young woman at the center instead of an angry young man, Alicia Vikander takes a lot of beatings. She is punched in the face, and in the stomach; she is thrown against rocks and sent careening through a forest; she is impaled; hit by a car; left in an impossible one-handed dead hang at least four times; and she is choked, really choked, by both men and women alike.

And she pulls it off! The movie itself is another, more complicated, story, but this video-game adaptation is better than most with set pieces that are both fun and ridiculous (like a high-stakes escape room) that actually seem to approximate the experience of playing a video game.

After two pretty lousy attempts, and a lot of terrible video game adaptations on the way, Hollywood has resurrected "Tomb Raider," and plucked the most recent supporting actress Oscar winner production credit gets their hands on. And like Angelina Jolie before her, Vikander has, exactly two years after her Academy Award win for an emotional drama, stepped into Lara Croft's combat boots and decided to raid some tombs.

Directed by Norwegian filmmaker Roar Uthaug ("The Wave"), Lara is introduced getting her butt kicked in a boxing ring. The gym membership that gives her access to these low-rent Rocky-esque facilities is one she can't afford to pay. She is scrappy and barely getting by on her bike courier service paycheck. She also isn't afraid to take on a challenge for a few hundred bucks, like, say, biking through the streets of London with a foxtail attached to her machine while two dozen guys try to catch her. But she's also not past seeing a random business man on the street, thinking that perhaps it is her long-lost and presumed to be dead father (Dominic West) and going into a hazy flashback dream that distracts her enough to lose focus in the race and flip over a police car.

At the local police station, we learn the truth of Lara: This isn't some working-class girl at all; this is someone who grew up wealthier than most could imagine and whose inheritance won't kick in until she signs some papers acknowledging that her father, who disappeared seven years ago, is dead. Just as she's about to concede to her father's deputy (Kristin Scott Thomas), she stumbles on a clue that sends her on a journey to find out what happened to her father on that remote island off the coast of Japan. He was looking for some ancient "death queen" named

Himiko that we spend the next half of the film talking about and searching for.

Lara swings by Hong Kong first and gets the son of a man her father knew, Lu Ren (a compelling but underused Daniel Wu) to join her on this adventure. One harrowing boat ride later and they've smashed into the island and found themselves in the possession of Vogel (Walton Goggins), a mercenary who is trying to get the mummified Himiko off the island.

It's here that the film's set pieces really start to click, and Lara, whose bulging back muscles are shown off at every possible opportunity, is put through the ringer trying to escape from Vogel. That the production put her in cargo pants for the duration and not the Jolie short-shorts is perhaps a sign of progress too.

The film not-so-subtly borrows from a half-dozen better films, but even so, there are definitely ways the story of "Tomb Raider" might have been improved. Lara is, for all her gumption, a pretty passive protagonist, for one.

As it stands, though, "Tomb Raider" is an often fun and visually compelling action pic that is also sometimes unintentionally silly, with a great accent leading the whole thing.

"Tomb Raider" is rated PG-13 for language and sequences of violence and action. Running time: 118 minutes.

The Lara Croft reboot "Tomb Raider" isn't half bad for an hour. Then there's another hour. That hour is quite bad. It's no fun watching your action heroine get shoved, punched and kicked to the sidelines of her own movie, while the menfolk take over and take turns over-acting before expiring. ... "Tomb Raider" turns Lara into a punching bag and an onlooker. Moviemakers may believe such grueling violence to be obligatory, a natural prelude to the usual digital fakery. Here it has the condescending effect of telling the main character to shut up and take it like a man. Here's hoping the sequel tries something a little more enlightened.

—Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

Lara Croft in the new "Tomb Raider" reboot looks like a heroine of the moment. Gone are the Daisy Dukes and knee-high boots of Angelina Jolie's 2001 version of the character. This incarnation wears a hoodie and cargo pants. ... This Lara is spunky and fearless, with a mind of her own. That's nice to see, but what does it matter in a movie that's dull when it's not inexplicable, and is riddled with bad dialogue and worse special effects?

—Stephanie Merry
The Washington Post

Lara Croft (Alicia Vikander), whose adventurer father (Dominic West) vanished when she was a teenager, heads for a mysterious island off the coast of Japan to find him in "Tomb Raider," co-starring Daniel Wu, above right.

Warner Bros. Pictures/AP photos

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Focus Features

German radicals Wilfried Bose (Daniel Bruhl) and Brigitte Kuhlmann (Rosamund Pike) instigate a hostage crisis in "7 Days in Entebbe," a docudrama about the 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight ultimately grounded in Entebbe, Uganda.

Momentum sputters

'7 Days' an honorable but flat retelling of hijacking

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

Unless it's complicated by something like human feeling, and a recognition of the human beings on both sides of any bloody ideological conflict, true-life heroism has a tendency to look a little synthetic on screen. It's what sells, of course. And it's an easy emotional sale if The Other in the story — the Viet Cong in "The Green Berets"; virtually everyone on the receiving end of Chris Kyle's rifle in "American Sniper" — remains a vaguely subhuman blank.

Is this why the successful Israeli commando raid on the Entebbe, Uganda, airport, saving dozens of Israeli passengers held hostage in the 1976 pro-Palestine terrorist hijacking of an Air France passenger jet, has so much trouble working as a movie?

This much can be said of the latest attempt, "7 Days in Entebbe." It excuses nothing the terrorists did, but the film juggles points of view and toggles between various factions caught up in a diplomatic crisis. Some pro-Israel newspapers covering the film's Berlin Film Festival premiere earlier this year noted its muted triumphalism, and noted further the film's depiction of the climactic raid, which shows Israeli Defense Forces unit commander Yonatan Netanyahu (the brother of Benjamin) as dying early in the raid, not near the end.

Such details will mean a great deal to some of the film's potential audience, and less so to others. Either way, "7 Days in Entebbe" is an honorable, evenhanded but curiously flat interpretation of events.

Screenwriter Gregory Burke ticks off the days of the title, beginning with the midair hijacking conducted by two Palestinian members of the revolutionary Popular Front and, primary in the narrative, two German-born members of the ultra-left Revolutionary Cells. Daniel Bruhl ("The Alienist") and Rosamund Pike receive top billing as Wilfried Bose and Brigitte Kuhlmann, ideologues who find themselves over their heads very quickly.

Air France Flight 139 took off from Tel Aviv, Israel, for Paris, with an Athens, Greece, stop en route. The jetliners ultimately landed in Entebbe where, with the blessing of Ugandan President Idi Amin (Nonso Anozie), the terrorists held 106 hostages, overwhelmingly Israeli, for ransom.

Working from Burke's screenplay, the Brazilian director Jose Padilha ("Narcos") cuts between the increasingly tense passengers, confined to a sweaty corner of the Entebbe airport terminal; the infighting among the terrorists; and the high-level political and military planning put into action by Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres (Eddie Marsan), a no-negotiation hard-liner, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (Lior Ashkenazi), depicted here as the conflicted pragmatist.

Padilha's key invention is the composite character of a commando soldier (Ben Schnetzer), whose dancer girlfriend (Zina Zinchenko) appears in choreographed sequences used as prologue, epilogue and, more dubiously, montage fodder mixed up with the raid preparations. The choreography's well-known: Performed on screen by the Batsheva Dance Company, Ohad Naharin's "Echad Mi Yodea" places 15 dancers in a semi-circle, dressed as Haredim, throwing off their garb as if under attack.

It's a striking element, but it big-foots the movie, which is never terrible, nor never more than dramatically adequate. Putting the characters played by Bruhl and Pike at the center of things has the unfortunate effect of German-splaining the Middle Eastern conflict; putting distractingly inauthentic eyebrows on Marsan's face has the unfortunate effect of pulling focus in a subtly undermining way.

It's odd, really: The team assembled for this project looked ideal on paper. Padilha's hijacking documentary "Bus 174" helped convince producers Tim Bevan and Kate Solomon ("United 93") that he was their director. Screenwriter Burke wrote the tense, effective "71," set in Belfast during the "troubles." "7 Days in Entebbe" is the work of smart people who never quite figured out how to tell this story, or these stories.

"7 Days in Entebbe" is rated PG-13 for violence, some thematic material, drug use, smoking and brief strong language. Running time: 107 minutes.



20th Century Fox

A closeted gay high schooler struggles with being outed in the teen comedy "Love, Simon," starring Nick Robinson.

'Love, Simon' much more than a coming out story

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Does 2018 need an earnest coming out story about an upper-middle class cisgender white boy? At face value, the tale of "Love, Simon" could possibly seem a bit dated. But the teen comedy — directed by Greg Berlanti, written by Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker, based on the book "Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda" by Becky Albertali — is impossibly infectious, and so much more than just a coming out story.

The nature of the film itself is political: It's a necessary and humane representation that foregrounds a queer character's journey and gives them a swooningly romantic love story to boot. But setting all that aside, "Love, Simon" is simply a fantastic high school comedy that's grounded, funny and heartwarming.

Nick Robinson stars as Simon, a senior in high school who's been privileged with a charmed life — loving parents (Josh Duhamel and Jennifer Garner), a sweet sister (Talitha Eliana Bateman), gorgeous home, inexplicably hip musical taste (The Bleachers frontman Jack Antonoff is the music supervisor), and a clique of awesome friends: Leah (Katherine Langford), Nick (Jorge Lendeborg Jr.) and new girl Abby (Alexandra Shipp).

The only thing that sets Simon apart is his deep, dark secret — he's hustling after the hungry gardener next door. That's right, he's gay. But how, now, with legal gay marriage, a supportive, liberal family and a multi-culti group of cool friends, could that be an issue?

Robinson and the filmmakers make his struggle visceral in a way that might make any viewer check their behavior. Simon winces at every small, joking instance of homophobia, the remarks from his well-meaning but unaware former jock dad, the jokes about porn and girl-

friends, and friends talking about crushes and hot girls, while Simon flails, trying to convey himself as "normal," i.e. "like everyone else."

Totally, "Love, Simon" exists on a spectrum between "Lady Bird" and "Mean Girls." It has the warm winsomeness of "Lady Bird," and the crackling humor of "Mean Girls," playing with the high school archetypes that the film captured so well. All three are about the protagonists at the center learning to be themselves fully and freely in the world, struggling against the prison that is the opinion of others. As Simon hems and haws about coming out, he plaintively notes that he's not ready to lead a different life, or be a different person.

The larger message of "Love, Simon," aside from tolerance, acceptance and love, is that being yourself and living your truth out loud is good for you, and it's good for the people around you too. Being closeted means Simon hurts the people closest to him, as he manipulates his friends to keep his secret under wraps. It can be difficult for a viewer to accept that his friends don't acknowledge just how hard it is for Simon to come out. He's blackmailed and bullied, but that doesn't change their expectations of him as a friend. Perhaps that's the right choice for the film, underscoring that sexuality doesn't define our morality, but you can't help but wish they cut sweet Simon a bit of slack.

That's because Robinson, Berlanti and the writers make Simon such an empathetic and detailed character to whom we can all relate. Ultimately, more than anything else, Simon just wants to be loved. He's a hopeless romantic risking not only his heart, but his identity, and that's what makes him a hero worth rooting for.

"Love, Simon" is rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements, sexual references, strong language and teen partying. Running time: 109 minutes.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Photos courtesy of Fatshark

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

The genre popularized by “Left 4 Dead” has been woefully ignored since that game’s sequel took over online gaming for a brief, but beautiful, period of time.

Online gaming has never been more popular than it is in 2018, with heavy hitters like “Fortnite” and “PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds” drawing millions of players daily. But the subgenre represented by “Left 4 Dead” — which featured four players battling a zombie horde in a series of cooperative missions — hasn’t really seen the success of those frag fests. Probably because few companies have attempted to follow up on the formula that Valve made popular.

Thank Sigmar for developer Fatshark and its Warhammer: Vermintide series. This blood-soaked take on co-op gaming wowed me when it debuted back in 2015. It wasn’t just the loving care taken with the neglected fantasy side of the Warhammer universe, or the mission structure that made “Vermintide” pick-up-and-playable. It was all of that and the best melee combat this side of “Dark Messiah of Might and Magic.”

It featured a team of four fantasy warriors who use blades, bullets and magic to fight their way through countless rat-men known as Skaven and raiders known as Rotblood.

“Vermintide II” takes all the best parts of the original game, delivers them wholesale and adds a few quality-of-life adjustments, making it better in every way.

The same five base classes return: the mercenary, the ever-burning wizard, the dwarf ranger, the elfen assassin — sorry, “Waytalker” — and the buckled-hat-wearing witch hunter. Leveling up each class will unlock subclasses, one at level seven and another at 12. It’s worth pointing out that these unlocked classes are not strictly better, linear upgrades.

For instance, my favorite class — the Waytalker — can be upgraded to a Shade. This fast-moving damage-per-second machine definitely has more offensive weapons than the previous two classes, but she loses some defensive abilities that remain powerful throughout the game.

Each of the classes has a bevy of skills that can be selected to further tailor them to your particular playstyle. In addition, each one has a career skill — a powerful ability that can be used several times per level that further delineates the classes.

Furthermore, each of the classes has a variety of different weapons that open up new ways to play. The dwarf, for instance, can turn from a strict damage melee class to an armored god that can facelank just about anything.

In short, not only are each of the classes vastly different, each one offers plenty of tweaking and customization — offering up plenty of opportunity for build experimentation.

Of course, all the customization in the world wouldn’t matter if the underlying game weren’t so addictive. The short mission structures — each takes 30-45 minutes — mean there is always room to squeeze in just one more raid on the Screaming Bell. The excellent matchmaking tools assist that greatly.

I never once had to wait more than 20 seconds to find a game on quick play — the mode that drops you into a party that could already be halfway through a level — and that was on the high end of the spectrum. More often than not, I was playing in a match mere seconds after loading the game up.

Once there, I found a gameplay base that, thanks to the game’s mechanics, are friendly, helpful and usually at least attempt to stick to the level’s objectives.

See, the game rewards teamwork and punishes greatly lone wolves. Players that stray too far from teammates can be attacked by enemies like the assassin or hookrat that must be killed by

another player. Players don’t die immediately after losing their initial health bar; rather, they’re knocked down and must be revived by a teammate. Get knocked down enough, and you’ll be “captured” and must be freed by your teammates.

In short, nearly every aspect of the game rewards players working together.

Players that act like jerks or run off and get themselves killed get booted from the party quickly — and thanks to the quick matchmaking, the fill-in bots are replaced in no time at all. In short, try to troll in “Vermintide II” and all you’re doing in ensuring you’re not going to be playing the game with anybody but bots.

The missions themselves are usually rudimentary — go from one end of a map to the other, slaying everything in your way. There is always some sort of twist — destroy this bell, survive a massive horde, kill this end-level boss — that spices things up a bit.

There are also semi-random and hand-placed mini-bosses that will test players’ teamwork and skill. Some of these mid-level challenges are no joke: I’ve been party wiped by the bile troll more than I have by some of the end bosses.

Scores at the end of the match tally things like number of players alive, most damage dealt, most kills and most survives. Objectives within each map, like collecting hidden tomes and killing loot rats, makes for higher levels of rewards at the end of each map.

These all feed into leveling up your class and the level of loot box you’ll receive upon completing a mission. Loot boxes are handled well in “Vermintide II.” For starters, you can’t pay real-world money for them. They have to be earned by playing well.

Secondly, each chest will drop three items, guaranteed. The level of chest and, subsequently, the level of the item’s power depends on which difficulty you played on. The items that you don’t use can be turned into scrap and repurposed into new, usable items.

There is a lot more to unpack from what is essentially an easily learned co-op game. Twitch integration allows viewers to mercilessly spawn enemies into the streamers’ game. The development roadmap Fatshark has already released shows that more maps, mod support and dedicated servers are on the way.

But basically, “Vermintide II” is an easy recommendation — especially at \$29.99. I’ve had more fun with my 30 bucks here than I have playing games twice the price. And considering its healthy playerbase at the moment, this isn’t a game you’d want to wait to pick up until it’s on sale.

Grade: A+

Online: vermintide.com

darnell.michael@stripes.com

TEAMING WITH EXCITEMENT

Players are rewarded for fighting horde together in ‘Warhammer: Vermintide II’



Overall grade:

A+

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Lots to see

Germanisches National Museum in Nuremberg features armor & more

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

The Louvre and the British Museum may be far more famous, but Germany has its own giant repository of art and artifacts, and it's just about an hour away from U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria. The Germanisches National Museum in Nuremberg is the largest cultural history museum in the German-speaking world, holding 1.3 million historical artifacts within its sprawling walls.

The museum is located across the street from the train station, just within Nuremberg's Old Town. If you're walking from the station, take your first left. You won't be able to miss the mass of structures that form the museum. The building itself is worth a second look. A large part of the museum used to be a 14th-century Carthusian monastery. But many neo-Gothic augmentations create this giant, Frankenstein-like conglomeration of a museum.

Inside, there's plenty to see: long halls of Renaissance paintings, caverns of Bronze Age Germanic jewelry, and enough arms and armor to equip a host of medieval knights.

Among the artists represented are the prolific court painter of Saxony, Lucas Cranach the Elder, and hometown hero Albrecht Duerer, who put Nuremberg on the map at the height of the Renaissance. Duerer inspired the Italian artists Titian and Raphael with his engravings and paintings.

The ancient history section has items from many German tribes — Ostrogothic arm bands and vases from when the Romans controlled much of north-central Europe. This section's highlight is the 3-foot-tall golden cone headdress from a Bronze Age sun priest, which was hammered from a single piece of gold and decorated with 154 rows of mysterious symbols.

The arms and armor fill a vast, modern room that could be a museum in itself. Giant display cases circle the room around more than a dozen suits of armor in jousting position. The cases show weapons from many periods, such as the curved 16th-century two-handed long swords used by the Landsknecht mercenaries, some as tall as a man, and flintlock pistols used in the Thirty Years' War.

If you need to take a break, there is a great cafe downstairs that has coffee and cakes.

Even if you manage to fully recuperate at the cafe, there's no way you're going to take in the whole museum in one visit. I suggest seeing one or two sections, then coming back another day. This is a museum that's worth more than one visit.

egnash.martin@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes

Left: This gold, Bronze Age-era sun priest ceremonial hat is among the artifacts and works of art at the Germanisches National Museum in Nuremberg, Germany. The museum is an hour's drive from U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria.



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

A 1,000-year-old gold-bound Bible at the Germanisches National Museum in Nuremberg.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: Kartaeusergasse 1, 90402 Nuremberg, Germany
The museum is just about one hour south of Grafenwoehr in Nuremberg's Old Town. The museum is closest to the gate directly across from the train station.

TIMES

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Wednesdays, when it's open until 9 p.m., and Mondays, when it's closed.

COSTS

The 8 euro (about \$10) entrance fee gives you access to all permanent exhibits. Some special exhibits cost more.

FOOD

A cafe downstairs serves drinks and baked goods.

INFORMATION

Phone: (+49)(0)911 13310, website: gnm.de/en

— Martin Egnash



The museum contains an impressive array of armor.



Glassware from Roman times is on display.



Medieval paintings are among the artwork on exhibit.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Making the most of your European cruise

Last year I spent two weeks on a Mediterranean cruise, filming a one-hour TV show designed to present an honest look at the pros and cons of cruising and equip travelers with the knowledge they need to be smart cruisers.

You might not think of it as budget travel, but cruising can be extremely affordable. When you consider that the price includes accommodations, food and transportation to far-flung destinations, it's simply a steal. But reckless spending on a cruise can burst through a tight budget like a torpedo. Stay away from the casino, beware of the specialty restaurants and keep to a budget if you order any liquor. Here are a few more tips for making the most of your next cruise:

Arriving in your port city a day or more before your cruise gives you the chance to get over jet lag, see your departure city (which is probably not part of your cruise itinerary) and avoid the potential stress of missing your cruise. When you're ready to board, make sure you're not carrying forbidden items, which range from clothes lined to firearms to alcohol (most cruise lines don't let you B.Y.O.B.).

Unpack right away. Clutter makes a small cabin even smaller. I pack heavier when going to a port city, traveling on land, so I make it a point to unpack completely, establishing a smart system for keeping my tight little cabin shipshape. Deep-store items you won't need in your suitcase, which you can stow under your bed. Unclutter the room by clearing out items the cruise line leaves for you (such

as promotional materials). I establish one drawer for all paper material I think I'm done with. And I have a ritual of toggling from shore mode to ship mode by putting my pocket change and moneybelt (neither of which are of any value on board) in a



Rick Steves

drawer or the safe when I return to the ship.

Once you're settled, get out of your cabin and explore the ship. Study the ship's cutaway models on the signage, walk each deck, and find the many delightful little corners where you can take full

advantage of your options.

To avoid crowds, participate in ship-board activities and use amenities in the evenings. Onboard restaurants are typically less crowded for the later seatings. If you're dying to try out that rock-climbing wall, drop by as soon as you get back on the ship in the afternoon; if you wait an hour or two, the line could get longer. Embarkation day can also work to your advantage: While other passengers are unpacking and exploring the ship, you'll have the mini-golf course to yourself.

I also recommend the "behind-the-scenes" ship tour (usually about \$100) — while pricey, it's an amazing two-hour look at how the ship and its crew run the



Rick Steves.com

Avoid cruise ship crowds by using amenities such as swimming pools in off-peak hours.

entire show in a parallel world that is invisible to most cruisers.

Most cruisers simply book the cruise line's shore excursions for \$100 (or more) a crack — and are generally happy they did. However, many other options open up to passengers once they step off the ship. Some travelers may opt to find a small company with a sales office in the terminal — and purchase essentially the same ship-excursion experience for about half the price. Others will book a private guide with a car or minibus in advance (team-

ing up with other cruisers to share the expense). And others, with a guidebook in hand, will simply hop on a public bus or hike to the train station and do their own thing. For the most reliable information, I recommend skipping the onboard excursion information desks. Instead, head to the tourist information kiosks that are set up to greet ships in each port.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts shows on public television and public radio. Email rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Long Night in Stuttgart

Stuttgart's residents are inevitably spoiled for choice when choosing what to do at their city's annual Long Night of Museums, and this year is no exception. Starting at 7 p.m. March 17, more than 80 shows, special events and exhibitions in museums, galleries or industrial landmarks will vie for visitors' interest.

A night out could include a look at the windowless rooms of a bunker hotel under the market square, exploring the changes the 1960s brought to Bad Württemberg through music and photo exhibition at the Haus der Geschichte, or puzzling over a heap of more than 50,000 pigs at the Schweinemuseum. The "Rolling Museum" is made up of privately owned classic vehicles whose owners take turns driving on rides through the old town. A special program geared to children gets underway from 4 p.m. at several institutions.

Courtesy shuttle buses running along six routes link up the various Museum sites, remain open until as late as 2 a.m.; an additional four, including the Mercedes Benz and Porsche Museums, throw parties that go on until 4 a.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the tourist information point or participating institutions. Adult tickets cost 19 euros; ages 6-14 pay 3 euros; ages five and under enter free. Tickets are also valid for free use of the local VVS public transportation system from March 17. Online: lange-nacht.de.



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

St. Patrick's fest in Turin

Turin, Italy, is anything but an obvious choice for celebrating St. Patrick's Day, but for six days its expansive fairgrounds host a "Festival Irlandese."

Dance, song, games and plenty of Guinness beer will transplant the spirit of the Emerald Isle to northern Italy. Program highlights include performances of Irish folk and ballads by artists from Kilkenny, the Celtic drumming of the Dublin-based Hit Machine Drummers, and the Irish dance of Siobhan and Gavin. The tastes of Ireland are served in the form of smoked salmon, stews, potato dishes and other hearty fare.

Should visitors grow weary of Irish culture, other zones of the fairgrounds offer a festival of the Orient, Holi festival and a stuntman's show. For an Italian take on the American dream from the 1950s through the 1980s, make way to the "That's

America" and Country Festivals. One admission ticket is good for entry into all concurrently running festivals.

Fair dates are March 16-18 and March 23-25. Festival hours are 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. the next day on Fridays; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day on Saturdays; and 11 a.m.-midnight on Sundays. Admission costs 12 euros for ages 10 and older; ages five through nine pay 8 euros, and ages four and under enter free. Online: festivalirlandese.it

Easter season in Austria

Vienna's Easter markets are known and loved for their springtime flair and the quality handicrafts that are sold there. The Austrian capital is the site of several such markets over the weeks to come, each with its own particular emphasis.

Schoenbrunn Palace's baroque beauty makes a lovely backdrop for a market at which some 60 exhibitors offer linens, wood carvings, ceramics, glassware and no end of eggs. An Easter bunny workshop lets children create creative with marzipan or create Easter bouquets. Sweet and hearty regional dishes are served on site. Visit from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily through April 2. Entry is free. Online: ostermarkt.co.at

A tower made up of about 40,000 painted Easter eggs graces the Old Viennese Easter market on Freyung Square. On weekday mornings, children can watch puppet shows, and afterwards, color eggs or make clay



KARL THOMAS/Austria.info

Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna provides a lovely backdrop for its Easter Egg market. It's open through April 2.

pies as the older folks peruse the decorative articles and local specialties at 40 stands. Visit 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. daily; entry free. Online: altviennermarkt.at/de/home

Am Hof Square is the site of a market at which members of a craftsmen's organization sell decorative articles from their own workshops, to include stained glass, handmade soaps, felt items, hats, oil paintings, mouth-blown glassware and more. Visit from 11 a.m. (from 10 a.m. Fri.-Sun.) to 8 p.m. daily through April 2; entry is free. Online: kunsthandwerksmarkt.at

The Kalvarienberg Fest takes place northwest of the city proper in the Hernals district. This Easter-themed spectacle of art,

culture and crafts offers a tent in which visitors can make crafts, daily puppet shows for kids, and concerts ranging from jazz to blues to traditional music. Visit through April 1. Online: kalvarienbergfest.at

Closer to Salzburg than Vienna? On March 24, an Easter market at the Open Air Museum introduces traditional Easter customs such as palm bush binding. A farmer's market offers treats to consume on the spot or to tuck away for later. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Easter Sunday April 1, visitors of all ages can hunt for Easter eggs. Museum entry costs 11 euros adults, 5.50 euros for students, and is free for ages five and under. Online: www.freilichtmuseum.com

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

The exterior of Saytouné restaurant in Wiesbaden is unassuming, but the interior is well-decorated and the food is fresh, varied and authentic Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine. Hookah smoking is permitted in a separate part of the facility.

After Hours: Germany

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

While many Americans in Wiesbaden are aware of the Italian-food chain Vapiano, fewer know about the small but delightful Lebanese and Mediterranean restaurant just around the corner near the city's iconic Kurhaus.

Saytouné — or olives in Arabic — is an unassuming joint, without an extravagant sign or exterior, but the inside is well-appointed, with couches, low tables and soft chairs in addition to normal dining-room tables and chairs, bathed in low, atmospheric lighting. In warmer weather, several outdoor tables offer a great view of one of Wiesbaden's busiest shopping districts and the beautiful fountains and park in front of the Kurhaus.

The menu — English versions are available — is diverse, with a variety of cold and warm Levantine appetizers and small salad and meat-and-rice dishes. A plate of olives is brought to the table free at the beginning of the meal. Lamb, the most popular item on the entree menu, and other meats are cooked over a charcoal grill and have that distinctive grilled flavor. The saffron rice is simply beautiful to look at — perfectly light yellow and a slightly sweet flavor as well.

To get a good idea of the quality, I ordered a pair of mezze appetizers from the extensive list — grape leaf wraps and coriander and lemon roasted potatoes — and both were good. I especially liked the potatoes, which were a good combination of sour, crispy and warm — very satisfying. The potatoes can also be ordered as a side for entrees.

For my entree, I ordered a traditional dish, ruz ma sahanegh, which was an interesting combination of ground lamb meatballs served with basmati rice, coriander and garlic spinach and a cucumber-mint yogurt sauce. Some pomegranate seeds made the presentation more colorful, and the portions were impressive — definitely enough for a healthy appetite. The lamb was well-cooked, the rice warm and flavorful, and the spinach well-done also.

Looking around at the meals of other guests, I could also tell that Saytouné's chicken dishes are popular among customers, and from their appearance, justifiably so.

In addition to the food and drinks, the restaurant allows customers to smoke hookah, and though a couple tables in the couch area — mostly set off from the main dining area — were smoking, the ventilation seemed to do a good job removing it from the air. It wasn't a nuisance, but it's something to consider if you have young children or sensitive lungs.

All in all, Saytouné is a very good Mediterranean-style restaurant with a wide range of meat and vegetarian choices in a great location. I can't wait to go back and sit outside when spring finally arrives.

Stoutamire.dan@strips.com
Twitter: @DKS_Stripes



Above: Ruz ma sahanegh, or lamb meatballs with rice and spinach, at Saytouné. While the restaurant is not inexpensive, the portions are very generous.

Right: Part of the interior of Saytouné is a more traditional Middle Eastern dining area with couches and low-positioned tables.

SAYTOUNE

Location: Wilhelmstrasse 52, Wiesbaden 65191
Hours: Noon – 11:30 p.m. daily.

Prices: Appetizers and salads 5.90 – 11.90 euro (12.50 – \$14.77); entrees 12.50 – 27.90 euro; drinks 2.50 – 3.50 euro.

Information: Phone (+49) (0)613086110
Online: saytouné.de

— Dan Stoutamire

Cabbage soup can be tasty

By MELISSA D'ARABIAN
Associated Press

The mere mention of cabbage soup in my household makes my husband a little stressed, and with good reason.

He remembers all too well the cabbage soup diet fad that I talked him into trying before our wedding. To be fair, I wasn't alone: Everyone was making this magical cabbage soup, and eating it multiple times a day, with the hope of nourishing our bodies while also making them bikini-beautiful. I'm not proud to admit, I was caught up in the hype. But a week or two in, I couldn't stand the soup for one more minute — the way my apartment smelled like a dirty sock, the taste of the soup itself, and according to my husband, my personality went from generally pleasant to downright cranky.

Nearly 20 years later, I decided it might be worth trying to concoct a tastier version of cabbage soup. It took some major convincing for my husband to try any cabbage soup at all. In fact, he didn't even want it cooking in the house — olfactory memory is powerful. So, I tinkered one week when he was out of town. And I discovered a genius way to sidestep the strong smell and taste: leave the cabbage raw. It was so simple, but would it work?

It worked perfectly! The key is to cut the cabbage very thinly, or shred it on a grater or in a food processor. Or, simply buy the slaw already sliced for coleslaw.

Even though it's truly delicious (my husband agrees), I'm glad we aren't stuck eating any cabbage soup for weeks on end.

CABBAGE SOUP IN GINGER AND GARLIC BROTH

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 25 minutes

Ingredients:

1 teaspoon olive oil

1 large yellow onion, sliced

1-inch chunk of fresh ginger, peeled and sliced into 5 or 6 slices

5 cloves of garlic, smashed

4½ cups of water

2 teaspoons mild yellow or white miso paste

1 tablespoon soy sauce

2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

½ cup shredded edamame

4 cups shredded or very thinly sliced green cabbage

1 cup shredded carrot

Toppings:

Chopped green onion

Chopped fresh cilantro, mint, and basil

Hot chili sauce, optional

Directions: In a large saucepan, cook onion and ginger in the olive oil, stirring over medium heat until onion begins to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook an additional couple of minutes until very fragrant. Add the water and bring to a boil. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and then simmer on medium until the broth takes on a mild flavor, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, divide the edamame, cabbage and carrot among four serving bowls. Once the broth is ready, remove the onion, garlic and ginger with a slotted spoon and discard the aromatics. (Or strain the broth through a sieve.) Return the broth to the heat, and whisk in the miso paste, soy sauce and lime juice.

Taste the broth and adjust seasoning, adding more miso, soy sauce or lime juice if desired. Pour the steaming broth on top of the cabbage in the bowls, and top with sliced green onion, fresh herbs (cilantro, mint and basil mixed together are perfect), and a dash of hot sauce, if desired.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



TULIP TIME

As spring approaches, nature's pageantry goes on display in the Netherlands

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

Nothing says springtime like tulip season in the Netherlands. The vast Dutch sky hangs low against rectangles of color — majestic purples, regal reds, bright yellows, eye-popping whites.

Tulip fields dot the countryside from Haarlem to The Hague. But the centerpiece of tulip-watching is Keukenhof park, located in Lisse, some 20 miles southeast of Amsterdam. Here, the tulip hunter is rewarded with artistic compositions of tulips with their seasonal brethren, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses and other springtime varieties.

Gardeners begin planting the nearly 80 acres with more than 7 million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in mid-September to prepare for the eight-week spectacle that runs for a period spanning from mid-March through mid-May. The hand-planting by 40 gardeners takes three months.

The color combinations are the envy of any fashion runway. Gardeners show off their fancy, placing a carpet of tiny blue Siberian squill against the ruffled blossoms of pinkish foxglove tulip variety. Elsewhere, they contrast the deep hue of unopened red tulips against a backdrop of yellow daffodils. White daffodils pop against a bed of whiter hyacinths.

More than a million tourists visit the gardens each year and compete for close-up shots of tulip gardens, no less frenetic than a red carpet shoot.

The full grandeur of the bulb imported from Turkey in the 16th century becomes clear on close inspection. The exotic-looking crown imperial tulip resembles a pineapple with tufts of leaves above amber-colored flowers. That the tulip is a member of the lily family becomes abundantly clear when gazing upon the Madalyn, with its sharp-tipped petals.

Keukenhof can make for a full-day outing, offering also flower shows, a walk up a typical windmill for a view of adjacent flower fields, a canal boat ride, children's playground, restaurants and food



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTINO MASOTTO/AF

Top: A closeup of tulips at Keukenhof park in Lisse, Netherlands. Above: Tourists snap photographs of tulip fields near Lisse in 2017.

KNOW & GO

Keukenhof is easily reachable by bus and train, about 30 minutes from Amsterdam, with tickets available that combine entrance fees with transport fare. Separate entrance tickets can be purchased online for 17 euros (U.S. \$21) for an adult or at the ticket office for 18 euros (U.S. \$22). The gardens are open this year March 22-May 13. Online: keukenhof.nl/en

trucks, which give the whole place a relaxed, festival atmosphere.

Exhibits offer information on topics like the Tulipmania bulb bubble of the 17th century, when a single bulb could fetch as much as a canal-side house in Amsterdam. The overblown tulip market is often cited as an example by economists of irrational investment mentality.

For the modern-day tulip hunter, nothing quite matches the sight of the colorful tulip fields com-

ing into focus in the distance while traversing the Dutch countryside, either on bike or by car.

It is not uncommon to find clusters of amateur photographers at the edges of vast tulip fields trying to capture the intensity of the fiery red tulip, or the striations of contrasting hues — once the purview of some of Europe's most renowned painters.

Today, the tulip is a major part of the Dutch horticulture economy — while also being celebrated as part of the culture.

Tulip season officially opens on Jan. 20, signaling the start of seasonal exports of cut tulips from the nation's vast network of greenhouses. To celebrate the day, Dutch tulip growers bring more than 200,000 tulips to Amsterdam's Dam Square, which can be picked for free.

The Netherlands is the largest tulip producer in the world, producing more than 2 billion tulip bulbs a year. According to Dutch trade figures, 77 percent of all flower bulbs traded worldwide come from the Netherlands, the majority of which are tulips.

The outdoor bloom begins closer to mid-March — and with it come more folksy tributes, with residents in small towns creating floral sculptures from tulips and hyacinths, showing them off along roadsides. Once a year, there is a 26-mile parade of tulip floats and decorated cars from Noordwijk to Haarlem.

The thrill of the tulip bloom has inspired one intrepid Dutch business man to plant fields abroad. Last spring, he drew thousands of tourists to a field of 250,000 tulips near Milan — exporting their fascination and making a business selling the cut flowers.

But perhaps the reason so many people flock to see the Dutch tulip fields in the Netherlands isn't just a tribute to nature's pageantry, but the fact that the easy-to-grow tulip bulb can be transported to any yard and garden, transforming them with a flash of springtime color.

When wandering Keukenhof, inspirations abound, and there is the clear edict: Do try this at home.

Tate Modern Picasso charts artist in 1932

In 1932, Pablo Picasso was 50 years old, and art critics were asking whether he was yesterday's man. He proved them wrong with an outpouring of creativity that is charted in the exhibition "Picasso 1932 — Love, Fame Tragedy," open now at London's Tate Modern gallery.

More than 100 paintings, drawings and sculptures, all from 1932, show Picasso's influences, including his rivalry with Henri Matisse, his interest in psychoanalysis and his passion for younger lover Marie-Therese Walter.

Walter inspired some of the Spanish artist's greatest portraits, one of which sold at Sotheby's recently for almost 50 million pounds (\$70 million).

Three nudes of Walter, painted over a five-day period and not displayed together since 1932, are at the heart of a show that explores the interplay between Picasso's work and his life — especially his complicated love life.

In 1932, the artist was living in Paris with his wife Olga Khokhlova and their son Paulo, while having a relationship with Walter, who was 28 years his junior.

Co-curator Nancy Ireson said at a preview that the exhibition offered "an incredible opportunity to get really close to Picasso."

"We're used to seeing him as an iconic artist, but here we really get to the person and to the heart of his creativity," she said. Picasso's career lasted seven decades — he died at 91 in 1973 — but 1932 was one of his most fertile years. Walter, with her strong aquiline nose, inspired paintings, drawings and sculptures that absorbed and transcended styles including cubism and surrealism.

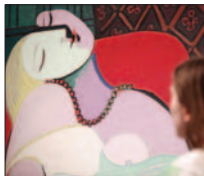
In March alone he produced the three nudes — "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust," "Nude in a Black Armchair" and "The Mirror" — as well as another portrait, "Girl Before a Mirror," which is on loan from the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The show also includes "The Dream," a vividly colored portrait of Walter considered among Picasso's greatest works.

Olga left Picasso in 1935 when Walter became pregnant, around the time the artist moved on to a new mistress and muse, Dora Maar.

The exhibition runs through Sept. 9.

— Jill Lawless/AP



Yu Mok, PA/AP

A woman examines Pablo Picasso's "The Dream" (1932) March 6 during a preview of the exhibition "Picasso 1932 — Love, Fame, Tragedy" at Tate Modern in London. The Picasso exhibition remains at Tate Modern for the summer.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



GERMANY



KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	RHEIN MAIN	STUTTGART
Zimtblüte asian food Call 0631-58047 for Pick-Up Orders Tue-Sun 11am-9pm Mon Closed Weillerbacher Str. 110 67661 Kaiserslautern	BOHM Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 9369-0 • www.hotelboehm.de	Come Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine www.brauhaus-castle.de Obi Sahr Ring 27 55232 Mainz-Kastell Tel. 06134-24999 Open daily from 11:00 – 24:00	ANAMI asia kitchen & bar anami-restaurant.de Pforzheim • Böblingen • Göppingen
COCKTAIL CASINO HAPPY Hour ENCHI Hour Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.enchilada-kaiserslautern.de	WEST-COAST TEXAS Phone: +49 91 384 382 66 Untere Zwingler Str. 9 NÜBG crazytateswcm@gmail.com crazytates.de	STUTTGART Kashmir Indian Speciality Restaurant Leonberger Str. 97 • 71229 Leonberg 07152/90 32 32 www.kashmir-restaurant.de	Bestitos Tapas • Cocktails Big Outdoor Area Rotebühlplatz 21 Stuttgart Tel: 0711 48 98 430 • bestitos-stuttgart.de
BIG EMMA Best Lavastone Steak in town! Open everyday 11-11 Reichswaldstrasse 1c, 66877 Ramstein 06371 406 770 www.bigemma-ramstein.com	OLYMPIA Frauenrichter Str 173 92637 Weiden For reservations, please call 0961 62519 www.olympia-weiden.de	EHRBAR BEST BURGER IN TOWN Lauchstraße 1 • 71032 Böblingen www.ehrbar-bb.de • info@ehrbar-bb.de facebook/Ehrbar-Böblingen Telefon 07031 98 96 961	MAX+MUH BURGER WITH RESPECT Ustraße 26, 91522 ANSBACH Tel: +49 (0)981 2148260 Bürgermeister Precht-Strasse 22, 92637 WEIDEN Tel: +49 (0)961 2063000 www.maxundmuh.de
KMCC Hofbräu Taste of Bavaria Mon-Sat 1000 – 2200 Sunday 1000 – 2100 06371 802 0480 Located in the KMCC	Roadside diner Hours of Operation: Fr, Sa, So, Mo • 1000-2200 Tu, Th • 1100-1430 / 1700-2200 Wed • closed Im GewerbePark 1 • 92655 Grafenwöhr Delivery Service • 09641-9367541 www.roadside-diner.com	STADT CAFE Holzgerlingen Breakfast • Lunch Daily Special Coffe & Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast Tumstr 6 71088 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.stadtscafe.de Opening Times Mo-Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm	TRIPLE B Two Locations: Hohenloherstraße 8 70435 Stuttgart and Marienstraße 28 70178 Stuttgart TRIPLE B • High Quality Burgers www.beef-burger-brothers.de
	Caribbean Grill Savor the Flavor of the Islands Diefbutter Str. 18 92655 Grafenwöhr 0152-588661759 Tel. 94780 3240 Caribbean Dishes • Side Selection • Desserts	Yuoki Sushi • Restaurant • Grill Ludwigsburger Str. 159 70435 Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen Tel. 0711-55077118 • www.yuoki.de Mon-Sat 11:00-15:00 and 17:30-23:30, Sun & Fri 11:30-23:30	INDIA HOUSE RESTAURANT AUTHENTIC AND DELICIOUS FOOD! Vaihinger Markt 28, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen WWW.INDIAHOUSE28.DE

HOTEL DIRECTORY



GERMANY

HOTEL AM SEE HOTEL • GRILL • BAR Kirchentumbacher Str. 36, • 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 Email: Hotelamsee@usa.net • www.HotelAmSee.de	Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 SUI/Person, Double Occupancy, Pet Night, Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-obertaun.de VAT Forms accepted www.forsthaus-obertaun.de	Hotel Villa Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks Amberger Str. 9 • 92249 Wilseck E-Mail: hotel-villa@aol.de Tel.: +49 (0) 9662/42070 www.hotel-villa-wilseck.de	HOTEL RESTAURANT BOHM seit 1907 Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de
---	--	--	--

Read STARS AND STRIPES online at

www.stripes.com

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



The Stone Lion of Tomori stands watch over the southern Okinawa countryside in Japan. Below: The view from atop the Tomori park.

PHOTOS BY MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Pride of Tomori

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

It is an iconic photograph that has come to symbolize the Battle of Okinawa — a pair of GIs huddled behind a menacing stone lion, observing a nearby ridge through binoculars, a handful of their fellow soldiers taking cover nearby.

They are fatigued from battle and their hands, like their uniforms, are caked with dirt. The fog of war settles over the battlefield, which is all around them.

Today, Tomori is a sleepy farm community roughly 30 minutes south of Okinawa's capital, Naha, on the island's southern tip. The soldiers and their machines of war are gone, having been replaced by concrete homes, neat rows of growing vegetables, livestock and rusting farm equipment.

Yet Tomori remembers, and the eyes of the elderly follow American visitors intently as they pass through the rolling hills of lime rock and their narrow farm roads.

Locals believe that the Stone Lion of Tomori protected them from the fires that consumed the island during the battle and shielded soldiers from both sides as the bullets flew. It continues to watch over the community from atop a hill.

Being the grandson of a Marine who participated in the Battle of Okinawa, I have always been interested in its history. I had seen the photo but couldn't have predicted in my wildest dreams that the statue would have survived. After purchasing a book by former Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota that featured a copy of the photo, I began to research the island's most famous shisa, which is a symbol of Ryukyuan culture.

The Stone Lion of Tomori — the oldest and largest existing stone lion, or shisa, built for village religious service standing at about 5½ feet by 4½ feet — was erected for fire protection in 1689, according to documents provided by the Yaese Board of Education.

Tomori village suffered from repeated fires in those days. Concerned

Erected in 1689, famed stone lion one of the most famous survivors of Battle of Okinawa

villagers went to a feng shui master and asked for help. He told them that Mount Yaese was a volcano and "disaster could be prevented if a lion-shaped object was placed facing Yaese," the documents say.

The villagers erected the stone lion and placed it facing Yaese. From then on, there were no more fires. Before World War II, young men of the village gathered at the stone lion and danced, praying for protection from flame.

The hill that hosts the giant shisa was the site of fierce frontline fighting during the Battle of Okinawa, as the American military squeezed the island's Japanese defenders south toward the coast, according to a history book published by the Okinawa Prefecture's Board of Education.

The Japanese military, which had continued to retreat, positioned its forces near Tomori in early June 1945, the book says. U.S. forces attacked the Yaese ridges with naval bombardment on June 6 and advanced onto Teruya

and Zaha. Artillery and tanks were followed by infantry, and Yaese fell to U.S. control on June 14.

Some local historians believe the photo of the GIs and the stone lion was staged after the fighting was already over in Tomori. It remains unclear whether that is true. Staged or not, it remains a powerful image. The lion's many bullet holes are a testament to the savagery of the fight that took place on that hill.

The lion was designated a prefectural cultural asset in 1974, and dubbed an important resource for folk culture.

On an overcast day in February, the Stone Lion of Tomori sat in solitude in its small fenced-off park atop the hill. The park was empty save for its more than 300-year-old defender, the features on its face weathered by centuries of wind and rain.

There are picnic tables and viewing platforms in the shade of a gigantic akagi tree, where one can see for miles, and a small bridge over a gap in the lime rock.

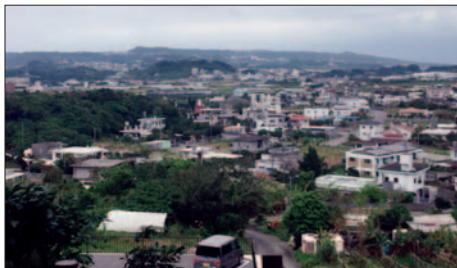
There, locals continue to pray for protection from fires, and one can even see the ridge that the GIs were looking at through those binoculars all those years ago. Today, its overgrown vegetation helps hide what might have been there in those days, lost in a sea of green.

I crouched behind the stone lion and looked to the ridge. I was immediately transported back in time with my hand on the same jagged lime rock that serves as the lion's base. I was instantly connected to the unknown GIs. It was a unique opportunity to live history.

Hell had come to Okinawa in 1945 in an operation called the "typhoon of steel," trapping both Americans and Japanese in the inferno. Many were lost, yet the Stone Lion of Tomori stood strong to protect them. It stopped many bullets.

Perhaps, as long as the stone lion stands facing Mount Yaese, it protects us still.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.



ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: 58 Tomori, Yaese-cho, Shimajiri-gun, Okinawa-ken 901-0402. GPS coordinates, N 26 08.016E 127 43.461

TIMES

The park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

COSTS

Free

FOOD

Nothing available on site, but there are picnic tables nearby.

— Matthew M. Burke

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

After Hours: Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

India and Nepal have similar but distinct cuisines, so it was a treat to find both under one roof at a restaurant called Om, conveniently located near Seoul's main Gwanghwamun Square.

A white neon sign advertises its name, and an orange door with a yellow wall lining the stairs leads customers down to the basement dining area. The colors echo the warmth inside, and the staff is very friendly.

The halal menu has mostly Indian fare, veg and non-veg, but it also boasts Nepalese options. Portions are just right, leaving plenty of room for an appetizer or two.

Who can resist a samosa with its flaky pastry shell filled with a spicy mix of potatoes and other vegetables? Papadams and vegetable fritters known as pakodas along with soup and salads also are on offer.

Main dishes include biryani, chicken tikka and tandooris and curries with your choice of chicken, mutton and king prawns, or a mix of all three. Vegetarian alternatives range from palak paneer with fresh spinach and cottage cheese to dal makhani and other lentil dishes. Choose from fresh baked garlic or butter naan, rice or both.

There's also masala sekuwa, which the menu intriguingly



Om has several tasting menus for parties of two or more.

describes as boneless chicken marinated in spicy herbs and roasted in a charcoal oven "in pure Nepali style."

If you can't decide, the restaurant offers several tasting menus for two people or more ranging in price from 16,000-27,000 won each for lunch, and 20,000-40,000 won each for dinner.

A special Nepali menu with either kukhurako masu (boneless chicken with mixed vegetables) for 17,000 won (about \$17) or a daal bhat set for 18,000 won (about \$18) must be ordered in advance for at least four people.

Om has standard beverages including flavored lassis and Himalayan coffee or herb tea. It also serves liquor, including wine by the glass or bottle.

The restaurant's decor reflects the subcontinent with lattice wood carvings, imported wall hangings, elephant statues and other exotic decorations.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kinggame1

OM

Location: The Gwanghwamun location is at 103 Saemunan-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul. The restaurant has two other branches at 125-1 Samchung-dong, Jongno-gu; and at 201 SK Hubgreen, B/D, 556 Dotuwa-dong, Mapo-gu. Hours: Open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Lunch specials are available from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pricing: In addition to prices noted above, appetizers, soups and salads range from 3,000-10,000 won (about \$3 to \$10). Main dishes run from 16,000-40,000 won (about \$16 to 40).

Dress: Casual

Directions: Take the subway to Gwanghwamun Station, then walk out exit 7. Turn around and walk toward the corner. Then take a right into an alley. The restaurant will be to your left and is easily seen from the street.

Information: Menu online at www.omfood.kr. For the Gwanghwamun location, call 02-723-4848; Samchung location, 02-730-8848; and the Mapo location, 02-725-4848.

— Kim Gamel



PHOTOS BY KIM GAMEL/Stars and Stripes

Above: The decor at Om, near Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul, South Korea, features lattice wood carvings, imported wall hangings, elephant statues and other exotic decorations.

Below: Om offers a large variety of Indian and Nepali food.



Take part in sakura season!
Find cherry blossom festivals in Japan and South Korea at

Stripes.com/go/bloom

Est.1925

MARUARA WATANABE



和雑貨丸荒渡辺

Cheerful KIMONO & Good Souvenir-shop

- ★ GETA (Wooden Footwear) ★ CHIRIMEN Bags
- ★ SAMURAI-KIMONO ★ YUKATA-KIMONO
- ★ NOREN (Tapestry) ★ JIKATABI (Japanese TABI Shoes)
- ★ TENUGUI Cloth ★ FUROSHIKI Wrapping Cloth
- ★ CHIRIMEN (Japanese Crepe Cloth)



03-3461-0064 • www.maruara.com • info@maruara.com

Mon.- Fri.
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat., Sun., Holidays
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Closed on Wednesday

16-8, Udagawacho, Shibuya-ku, TOKYO

HERE!

LOFT

FOREVER 21

SEIBU D.S.

TO HAKUJIKU

NAS WARDING

What's
Your
Story?

STARS AND STRIPES

Month of the Military Child

Let's Celebrate by Sharing Your Story!

Stories will be...

- Featured on our new website militarychild.stripes.com.
- Published selectively in our Global Edition every Thursday in April.
- Printed in Stripes Pacific's community papers.

Andrews

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Submit Today: militarychild.stripes.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Make a scene at some favorite film settings

By MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press

Winter had trespassed into spring the day I visited Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg, Austria, where Julie Andrews and the Von Trapp children sang and danced their way through “Do-Re-Mi.” Snowflakes stuck to my nose and eyelashes and also found their icy way down my neck.

Not that I cared. As a fan of “The Sound of Music” since forever, I was thrilled to skip in the footsteps of Maria & Co., snow and all.

Turns out visiting the setting of a much-loved movie is a popular pastime, from the bar of the Park Hyatt Tokyo (“Lost in Translation”) to New York’s Cafe Lalo (“You’ve Got Mail”).

You too can make a scene at these real-world locations connected to classic films and fan favorites.

Harry Potter

See props, costumes, sets and more at the Harry Potter studio tour in Leavesden, north of London. “Warner Bros. Studio Tour London—The Making of Harry Potter” is located next to the studios where the movies were filmed.

Other Potter places include King’s Cross Station in London, where officials have obligingly added a sign for the fictional “Platform 9-3/4” complete with a trolley embedded in a wall, and Leadenhall Market, which provided exteriors for Diagon Alley and the Leaky Cauldron in the first movie.

In Scotland, the Glenfinnan Viaduct is instantly recognizable as the bridge that carries the Hogwarts Express. The Jacobite Steam Train passes over the viaduct traveling from Fort William to Mallaig.

‘The Shining’

The movie of Stephen King’s horror novel “The Shining” wasn’t shot at The Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colo., but it was the inspiration for creepy Overlook Hotel. King and his wife were the sole guests at the Stanley shortly before a seasonal closing when King was visited by a nightmare that germinated into the ghoulish plot. The story involves an offseason caretaker who becomes a maniac after discovering the hotel’s secrets. (Ghost tours are available, and the hotel has installed a hedge maze featured in the movie, not the book.) The Stanley was used during filming of “The Shining” TV series and has been a location for the movie “Dumb and Dumber.”



Alex Carrillo Quito of Ecuador imitates the character Rocky Balboa from the 1976 movie “Rocky” on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2016.

‘Rocky’

Even if you’ve never watched any of the “Rocky” movies (guilty), chances are you’re familiar with the stirring scene(s) where Sylvester Stallone bounds up the steps to Philadelphia’s Museum of Art. Run, walk or just amble your way up the 72 steps. Then turn around and enjoy the view of the city.



A model of Hogwarts castle from the Harry Potter film series at the Warner Bros Studio Tour in Watford, London.



A visitor strolls through the Vienna sewer on a guided tour.

‘The Third Man’

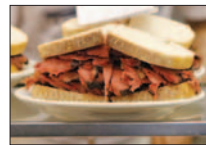
This noir classic starring Orson Welles as the amoral Harry Lime showed the gritty as well as the picturesque side of Vienna in the aftermath of World War II. There are tours in Lime’s footsteps and a Third Man Museum with film memorabilia. You can visit the giant ferris wheel (Riesenrad), where Lime and his former friend, Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten), meet in a showdown that still crackles with menace.



‘La La Land,’ ‘Rebel Without a Cause’

Griffith Observatory, set in the hills above Los Angeles, is worth visiting no matter what. The views are spectacular on a clear night. But movie fans have extra motivation. The planetarium inspired the dance scene (actually shot on a movie set) where Mia and Sebastian waltz among the stars.

“La La Land” references another movie that used the setting to dramatic effect, “Rebel Without a Cause.” A knife fight between Jim (James Dean) and Buzz (Corey Allen) takes place at the observatory (following a visit to the planetarium), as does the 1955 classic’s wrenching finale.



A sandwich ready to go out at Katz’s Delicatessen in New York. The deli was famous in 1989’s “When Harry Met Sally.”

‘When Harry Met Sally’

Katz’s Delicatessen on New York’s Lower East Side makes a fine pastrami sandwich, but a lot of folks show up here more interested in having “what she’s having.” This was the setting of the scene in which Meg Ryan’s character, Sally, demonstrates to Billy Crystal’s character, Harry, that he knows less about women than he thinks. Be prepared to pay \$20 or more for a signature sandwich.



Tourists take photos during a tour of the Hobbit movie set near Matamata, New Zealand, in 2015.

Lord of the Rings

Middle-earth has been a high point for New Zealand tourism. Scores of tours take in the film’s stunning landscapes, from beautiful Lake Wakatipu in the South Island to the North Island’s Hobbiton, a former movie set for the Shire.

‘Three Coins in the Fountain,’ ‘La Dolce Vita,’ ‘Roman Holiday’

Anita Ekberg (“La Dolce Vita”) waded in it, evening gown and all. Audrey Hepburn (“Roman Holiday”) got her hair cut near it. And Dorothy McGuire (“Three Coins in the Fountain”) made a wish on it. We’re talking Trevi Fountain, a Rome must-see. Time your visit early or late; it’s crowded.

‘The Sound of Music’

Bus or van tours take fans to many “Sound of Music” locations around Salzburg. With a map, you can find some spots yourself. Several lake scenes were shot at the Schloss Leopoldskron, now a hotel and conference center. The (smallest) palace is decorated in grand style, including an ornate and gilded “Venetian room” that inspired the movie’s much-larger ballroom.

Don’t miss: sitting on the terrace and channeling some well-bred snark, baroness style.



The exterior of A Christmas Story House and Museum in Cleveland.

‘A Christmas Story’

This 1983 movie about a boy who yearns for a Red Ryder BB gun is a holiday tradition for many. The Cleveland, Ohio, house where Ralphie and his family lived is open for tours and even overnight stays with a museum across the street. (Note: It’s closed for annual maintenance for about 10 days each February.)

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

LIVING THE #VAN LIFE

Pull over, cook and sleep nearly anywhere in rides with beds, kitchens — and even a sink

By KATE SILVER
Special to The Washington Post

Years before #vanlife took on a life of its own across social media in the United States, Bill Staggs was onto something. He had fond memories, dating to his late-1950s childhood, of family trips in a Volkswagen van. In the early 2000s, he started thinking that others might like to dip their toes into that nomadic lifestyle, chugging along behind the wheel of a rented classic vehicle with a cult following. “You look at these cars and you think, ‘What’s the big deal about them? Because they’re kind of ugly, really.’ That right there is the first clue. They are so plain, they don’t have a whole lot of what you call style, but because of that, they burrow a place in people’s hearts because of their homeliness,” says Staggs, who lives in Costa Mesa, Calif. “Have you ever heard the term, ‘Only a surfer knows the feeling?’”

In 2005, he and his wife, Diane, launched Vintage Surfari Wagons to rent out two vintage Westfalia buses, both equipped with two beds and kitchen equipment. It took time for the buzz to build.

“I think, our fifth year, we actually made a little bit of money. We were looking at our tax returns and thinking, ‘That’s great!’” Staggs says and laughs. “I wonder how much longer this can possibly go on?”

Soon after he had that thought, the trend of van life — the notion of trading in your home for a life untethered and four-wheeled (and largely without a bathroom) — rose to prominence in the U.S. Millions of posts on Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter show whimsical, adventurous and envy-inducing photos of the young and radiant, often with their

dogs, traveling across beaches, over mountains and into the desert with the help of a veritable tiny house on wheels.

“Van living has become this major craze for people,” Staggs says.

His company is riding that wave. By summer, Vintage Surfari Wagons’ rental fleet will number 25 VW vans, including Bay Window buses, Vanagons and Eurovans. They can seat up to five people and sleep up to four in two berths; rental rates range from \$140 to \$295 per day. The business is one of many of van-rental companies across the country offering a rambling slice of van life (or simply a convenient camping experience in which most of the gear is included).

“Millennials and the newer generation, they would rather splurge money on the experience than [on] staying in expensive hotels,” says Hiron Menon, general manager of the U.S. office of JUCY, which rents bright green and purple Dodge Caravans and Chrysler Town and Country vans in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Menon describes the average van-goer as someone who prefers spontaneity to planning. “They want to pull over wherever they want, they want to take pictures or selfies, they want to sleep or cook anywhere,” he says.

The company, which got its start in 2001 in New Zealand, where van enthusiasm has been brewing for years, rents custom-designed vehicles decked out with just about everything a traveler could need on the road: a sink, kitchen and cookware, refrigerator, gas stove, bedding and more. Menon says that the vehicles are popular because they’re easy to manage and less intimidating than an RV. JUCY vans can sleep two inside, and a tent on the roof can sleep two more. They’re also affordable: Daily rates range from \$45 to \$120.

Escape Campervans, which opened in 2009 in

Los Angeles, has more than 500 rentals available there and at seven other U.S. locations (Las Vegas, San Francisco, Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, New York City and Miami) with plans to open in Atlanta and Vancouver, B.C., this year. The artist-painted vans — Ford E-150s and Dodge Caravans — can sleep four comfortably (and five snugly) with the addition of an optional rooftop tent, and come with a queen-size bed, bedding and all the kitchen and camping basics. Rates range from \$57 to \$130 per day, depending on the season and trip length.

Katie Hubbard, director of marketing at Escape Campervans, says that the primary age group of renters is 24 to 35, and the U.S. market is still getting acquainted with the van-rental option. About 60 percent of Escape Campervans’ customers are international. Their goal is generally the same: Get off the beaten path and explore the open road on their own schedule without juggling all the gear.

Matt Wolski and Jen Lopez launched Basecamper Vans in Salt Lake City to give people a taste of van life while exploring the great outdoors.

“The reality is, full-time [van life] is kind of a pain. But having a little nibble for a week or two every year is really fun,” Wolski says.

The company has two types of vans that sleep two to five people (with the addition of a rooftop tent), and rates range from \$109 to \$139 per day. The larger version resembles a cozy apartment, with a built-in kitchen that includes a refrigerator, propane stove, heater, LED lighting and bedding.

Wolski and Lopez can also act as trip planners, offering suggestions on routes, hikes and side trips. One popular journey that customers take is the Mighty Five, a 900-mile Utah trip that includes Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park.

With the addition of an optional rooftop tent, four people can sleep comfortably in the artist-painted Escape Campervans. They come with a queen-size bed, bedding and basic kitchen and camping gear.

ALEX MAUZ/Courtesy of The Washington Post



WEEKEND: MUSIC



How did we get here?

David Byrne sees world gone wrong on 'American Utopia'

BY MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

David Byrne has some observations about American life these days, and it worries him. The former Talking Heads frontman and prolific artist sees people divided into camps, not talking to one another, with politicians on both sides representing moneyed interests, rather than the people.

Something's gone wrong, he said. Byrne's new album, "American Utopia," is about the longing people have amid fears and frustrations.

"They're all wondering, 'Could things be done in a slightly different way? Is there a better way than the way we've ended up?'" he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

The album's lead single, "Everybody's Coming to My House," co-written with Brian Eno, is No. 5 on Billboard's adult alternative songs chart, giving him his first Top 10 hit in 25 years. Last week he launched an international, 90-some city tour, which he calls his most ambitious since the shows filmed for the 1984 Jonathan Demme film "Stop Making Sense," considered among the best concert films of all time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

WEEKEND: MUSIC

FROM PAGE 36

And, he has started a website: ReasonsToBe Cheerful.world, where he curates hopeful news about some possible paths forward.

"American Utopia," released March 9, is Byrne's first solo album in 14 years. In between those records, his work included albums with St. Vincent, musicals about Imelda Marcos and Joan of Arc, books about urban bicycling and how music works, interactive art based on neuroscience and more projects.

Producer Patrick Dillett, who has collaborated with Byrne for years and works on "American Utopia"—along with Eno and Scottish producer Rodaidd McDonald—said Byrne's collaborative nature and openness to try new things is among the qualities that sets him apart.

"He does a lot of things well, but he's not doing them to be known for it. It's a way of becoming a fuller person," Dillett said. "He's as well-formed and well-rounded a person as I've ever known. If I could be someone when I grow up, I would be him."

Byrne, who was born in Scotland but moved to the United States as a child and held a green card for most of his life, became a U.S. citizen in 2012. Asked why, he laughed, then made a confession.

"I have been voting surreptitiously. I was under possibly the mistaken impression that green card holders could vote for all local candidates," the 65-year-old said. "They just couldn't vote for president. That was the impression I had. And then at some point when I went into my local elementary school to vote, and they said, 'You can't vote!' I hope I'm not getting myself in trouble. But I truly believed that I was allowed to do that, and no one stopped me."

He said he finally decided to gain his citizenship so that he could fully participate in civic society. "That felt good," he said.

Byrne's new website, named for the Ian Dury and the Blockheads song "Reasons to Be Cheerful, Part 3," includes successful projects from around the world in areas such as sustainable energy and culture that could be adopted by other communities, he said. Byrne is fresh off a short lecture tour talking about the ideas, and said he was pleased by the questions asked at the end of each appearance.

"People were genuinely engaged. They weren't trying to change the subject and ask about a Talking Heads reunion or something like that," he said. Byrne has repeatedly said there won't be one.

The website and album aren't directly connected, but run parallel and "talk to one another in some ways," Byrne said. He imagined people in a refugee camp when he wrote the song "Gasoline and Dirty Sheets," for example.

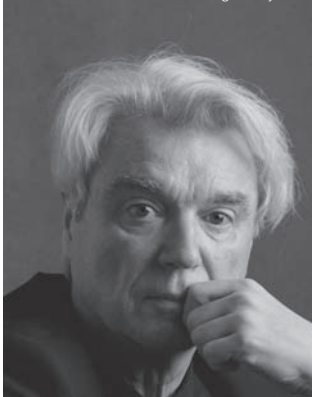
The album is "describing things the way they are, or the way I see them. Describing myself, and my own confusions and issues," he said, adding that artists "can offer not just a litany of complaints, but some kind of hope and answers and another way of viewing things."

While there is excitement surrounding the release of "American Utopia," some criticized the album because its two dozen collaborators are all men. Byrne said in a recent online post that he

'Many people will expect to relive some experience from their childhood. No. I'm not a time machine. I'm not your personal time machine.'

David Byrne

on fans who come to his concerts hoping he'll revisit his Talking Heads years



DREW GURIAN, INVISION/AP

Former Talking Heads frontman David Byrne has a new website, ReasonsToBeCheerful.world, as a supplement to the album "American Utopia."

retagged it, calling the choice "negligent," and saying that it doesn't reflect what he has done in the past or his current live show.

Byrne, who will perform at the Coachella and New Orleans Jazz festivals during his six-month trek on the road, said fans should not expect a "Stop Making Sense" redux.

"Many people will expect to relive some experience from their childhood. No. I'm not a time machine. I'm not your personal time machine," he said.

Conceptually, though, the new tour is similar to "Stop Making Sense" in its simplicity.

"(It) completely rethinks what you can do, what a band, what a show can be," he said.

REVIEW

Hendrix recordings strong end to trilogy

BY PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Elvis has left the building, but Jimi is still busy in the studio. Or so it would seem from the staggering number of posthumous Hendrix albums that record labels, bootleggers and—for the past two decades—his family have been releasing since his death in 1970.

"Both Sides of the Sky" (Experience Hendrix/Sony Legacy) is billed as the last in a trilogy gathering assorted Hendrix studio recordings, following 2010's "Valleys of Neptune" and 2013's "People, Hell and Angels." Nearly the full batch comes from sessions at New York's Record Plant between Jan. 1968 and Feb. 1970.

Ten of the 13 tracks are billed as previously unreleased, though several are alternate or instrumental versions of known Hendrix tracks.

A take on Joni Mitchell's "Woodstock," recorded just 42 days after the end of the festival, features Hendrix on bass, with vocals and organ by Stephen Stills. It sounds like a demo of the track released by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young some five months later. Hendrix switches to guitar on another Stills tune, "S20 Fine," which also sounds very CSN&Y. Or, rather, CSNY&H.

Lonnie Youngblood sings and plays the sax on "Georgia Blues," while Johnny Winter contributes his usually excellent slide guitar to "Things I Used to Do."

"Sweet Angel," the oldest track here and the only one recorded in London, is an instrumental version of "Angel," a beautiful ballad and close relation to "Little Wing."

"Power of Soul" was mixed by Eddie Kramer and Hendrix at his own Electric Lady Studios just weeks before his death. Hendrix was known to be a perfectionist and maybe he'd have continued tweaking the complex, upbeat, optimistic song, but it seems to provide the clearest sample of what might have come next.

David Byrne

American Utopia
(Todomundo/Nonesuch)

David Byrne has been asking questions and looking for answers since the first Talking Heads album more than 40 years ago, and "American Utopia" continues that healthy habit.

His last release billed as a solo album was "Grown Backwards" from 2004. From then on, Byrne's been releasing joint ventures with folks like St. Vincent, Pathy Slim and Brian Eno.

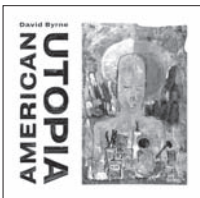
The new album is Byrne's alone, but it is "based on original tracks" by Eno, who also plays on several of the tunes, while two songs are co-written, performed and produced with Brooklyn-based Daniel Lopatin aka Oneohtrix Point Never.

Whatever the songs' origin, the result is a mix of some anx-

ious, highly-charged moments tempered by sweet melodies and gentle rhythms.

Sometimes it all happens on the same track. Opener "I Dance Like This" starts as a gentle piano ballad, albeit with quirky lyrics, and turns into an assault of mechanic rhythms before switching back again. "Gasoline and Dirty Sheets" could be off "Naked," the last Talking Heads album, while the South American refrain from "Every Day Is A Miracle," a song with four drummers plus drum programming, would fit on "Rei Momo," Byrne's first post-Heads solo album.

The "tripe for a remix" and sinusously danceable "Everybody's Coming to My House" reminds of LCD Soundsystem in more than just its title, while "Bullet" is a poetically graphic description of a projectile as it makes its way through a man's body.



In his liner notes, Byrne says "music is a kind of model—it often tells us or points us toward how we can be." On "American Utopia," you can find questions and reflections about how we are and how we can be. Here's hoping the path between the two is not a road to nowhere.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press



EXPERIENCE HENDRIX,
LEGACY RECORDINGS/AP

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Muslim sleuth tackles plight of Syrian refugees

By MAUREEN CORRIGAN
Special to The Washington Post

What is the purpose of detective fiction? For Ausma Zehanat Khan, it's a perfect tool for getting us to see — really see — problems that are right before our eyes: humanitarian crises and war crimes, for instance. Khan, a former immigration lawyer and editor of the now-defunct magazine *Muslim Girl*, has created a mystery series starring a Muslim police detective, who along with his partner, has not only confronted anti-Muslim hate crimes in Canada, but has also roamed farther afield to ravaged places like Sarajevo, Iraq and Syria to look at evils the world would rather forget.

"A Dangerous Crossing" is the fifth novel in the series, and it tackles a timely subject: the plight of Syrian refugees. According to the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees, more than 5 million Syrians have been driven from their country or displaced internally since the start of that country's civil war in 2011.

Khan's mystery opens in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos (pronounced as "Lesbos"). Audrey Clare is a case worker from Canada who is helping resettled refugees through a nongovernmental organization (NGO) she runs called Woman to Woman. Audrey is on the beach at night with other volunteers scanning the waves for overburdened boats carrying their desperate human cargo of refugees. She tells a young man named Ali that she's returning to the headquarters of her NGO (a tent in the refugee camp) to meet an Interpol agent who wants to talk to them both. Readers are left in the dark about the reason for this conversation. When Audrey leaves the beach, Ali gets delayed. When he finally makes his way back to the tent, he hears gunshots. He rushes inside to find the bodies of that Interpol agent and a male refugee. The murder weapon is Audrey's gun, Audrey has vanished.

Cut to Ottawa, where Inspector Esa Khattak and his partner, Sgt. Rachel Getty, are attending an official reception. At the end of the evening, they will be

asked by Audrey's brother, Nathan Clare, to find her and solve the murders. Nathan is a wealthy Canadian philanthropist who helped bankroll her NGO. Understandably, Nathan is worried about his sister, but her disappearance and the murders also could have a political impact: They could undermine the young prime minister's controversial efforts to fast-track refugee resettlement in Canada. The fact that Nathan Clare is Khattak's oldest friend, as well as the object of Getty's romantic longings, adds even more urgency to the case.

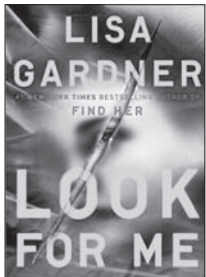
Overwhelmed? I was, too. The personal histories of Khan's characters are so emmeshed that tracing back their connections is like trying to untangle an airball. We learn, for instance, that Khattak's physician sister, Rukhs, runs a clinic for new Syrian arrivals to Canada that partners with Audrey's NGO. Meanwhile, Khattak's late wife's best friend, a lawyer named Sehr Ghilazi, enters the fray because she handles refugee claims for Audrey's NGO. Sehr also has the hots for Khattak and is jealous of his easy rapport with Getty.

I used to think Elizabeth George's Inspector Lynley series was unrivaled when

it came to suspense stories grinding to a halt while the characters attended to their bruised feelings and unscratched romantic fitches, but Khan's mystery has set a new gold standard for backstory complications. Adding to the confusion is the fact that Khan is not as deft as she could be in the skill that every series mystery writer must master: namely, speaking to two audiences at once — those who have read all the novels in the series and those readers who are starting with the latest. For example, Khattak's sister is barely speaking to him because of an offense dating from earlier in the series that's alluded to here but not described.

The obscuring effect of all this cryptic personal detail is regrettable, because when Khan concentrates on the suspense plot, she spins an exciting story that enlivenes as much as it entertains.

"A Dangerous Crossing" urges readers to consider not only the obvious natural hazards faced by Syrian refugees but also the evils perpetrated by human predators who lurk in the shadows. Finding a solution to those evils is likely well beyond the reach of Khan's master detectives, but her complex tale helps us, at the very least, see them more clearly.



Look for Me

Lisa Gardner

Fans of Gardner's novels will embrace the return of not only Sgt. Detective D.D. Warren, but also Flora Dane, an almost vigilante advocate for women who have been victimized. They might not like each other, but the level of trust and respect between them creates an almost sibling-like relationship.

D.D. Warren arrives in the midst of a horrible crime scene where it appears the entire family has been killed. She and her team soon learn that the oldest daughter, Roxanna, and two dogs aren't in the house. Soon the dogs are found safe and sound, but where is Roxanna? Was she merely lucky enough to be walking them when the rampage occurred, or was she responsible for the deaths? Dane knows about Roxanna and her past, including issues with her parents and foster care. Roxanna was angry with the system and how it seems designed to break apart families rather than keep them together. Did it cause her to finally snap?

The core mystery of whether Roxanna is the victim or the suspect will keep everyone guessing up to the surprising end.

—Jeff Ayers/AP



The Hush

John Hart

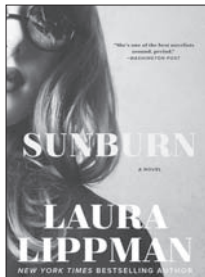
"The Hush" picks up the story of Johnny Merrimon, who was introduced in Hart's 2009 novel "The Last Child" as a 13-year-old obsessed with finding the man who killed his twin sister, Alyssa. The quest took Johnny into hearts of darkness no child should ever know about.

Ten years later, Johnny is nearly penniless but land-rich, living on 6,000 acres called Hush Arbor that he had inherited from a complicated dead. Hush Arbor once belonged to Isaac Freeman, the first freed slave in Raven County. Johnny's ownership of Hush Arbor is being challenged by a relative of Freeman, and mega-wealthy businessman William Boyd wants to buy the land to use for hunting.

Hush Arbor harbors violent, unexplainable acts, and seems to have healing powers. No matter how injured he is, Johnny heals quickly, as if he were Wolverine.

"The Hush" is strongest when Hart concentrates on the evocative setting, heightened by a strong sense of place with Hush Arbor. But the magical realism aspects do not resonate and become increasingly far-fetched.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



Sunburn

Laura Lippman

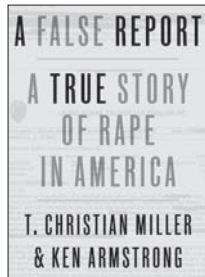
Polly Costello walks away from her husband, Greg, and their 3-year-old daughter, Jani, during a beach vacation. She's been making these plans for a while, considering her actions a pre-emptive strike, knowing that Greg would leave her soon, without support for Jani. That would "trap" her as a single parent.

And Polly refused to be trapped. Polly doesn't get far — the small Delaware town of Belleville, which has little besides a main street and the oddly named High-Ho diner, where she gets a job as a waitress. Then Adam Bosk walks into the diner and the attraction is instantaneous. It suits her that Adam is only passing through; his job as a cook at the High-Ho is temporary, though he does know more than just flipping burgers.

Adam and Polly's secrets are doled out in small revelations, making "Sunburn" even more intriguing. Murder, insurance, investigators and hidden loves come to the forefront as the characters struggle with their identities.

The ingenious plot evolves into myriad twists that are as believable as they are surprising.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP



A False Report

T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong

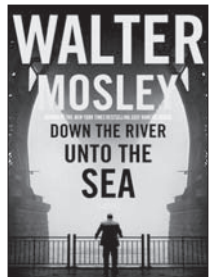
In 2008, Marie, an 18-year-old woman in suburban Seattle, reportedly being raped in her home. Marie's most recent foster mother doubted her story. At first, it seemed too reminiscent of the TV show "Law and Order." The man had tied her up with shoelaces, taken photos and threatened to post them on the internet.

Terrified and perhaps seeking a way out, Marie, who'd grown up in foster homes and suffered molestation, said she'd invented the story. The relief among law enforcement authorities was immediate and palpable as they not only destroyed evidence and ceased looking for an attacker, but also prosecuted Marie for lying.

Two years later, police in Colorado arrested a serial rapist and found pictures in his camera of Marie bound with shoelaces.

Marie was 20 when police showed up at her door. She was handed a check for \$500, a refund of her court costs, and information about rape counseling. The authors' research brings to life not only Marie and other victims, but also the police and other authorities who are devastated by their own mistakes.

—Kim Curtis/AP



Down the River Unto the Sea

Walter Mosley

Former NYPD Detective Joe King Oliver is now the owner-operator of King Detective Service in Brooklyn, King, as he prefers to be called, spent time in jail on phony assault charges before the case was dropped without an explanation. That was 13 years ago, and the arrest ended his police career and his marriage. He endured frequent beatings and violence while in jail. Except for his 17-year-old daughter, Najia-Denise, he lives an isolated life.

King receives a letter from the woman who accused him of assault, saying that crooked cops forced her to bring the charges. King doesn't know that he did to incur such hatred. He's barely begun to look into what happened to him when he is asked to look into the case of militant journalist Leonard Compton. Compton is on death row for shooting two police officers, though he claimed it was self-defense.

Examining how discrimination and prejudice affects African-Americans is right in Mosley's wheelhouse. The author doesn't miss a beat weaving this into the gritty plot.

—Oline H. Cogdill/AP

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

"Justice League": Director Zack Snyder has not put together a complete action film since "Watchmen." In that film, Snyder showed a great skill at blending very personal moments with plenty of fist-throwing action. Since then, his action scenes are more chaotic than cleverly controlled, and he puts together scenes where events unfold before there's any explanation of what is happening. When he finally gets to the explanatory moments, they tend to slow the tempo of the movie. The two best things going for "Justice League" is a running time of 119 minutes (including secret scenes) and that it came out in the wake of so many recent stumbles with DC Comics movies. Buried under a stack of problems is a core of a good idea that could be used should the franchise continue.



Neon/AP

Sebastian Stan is Jeff Gilooley, from left, Margot Robbie is Tonya Harding and Julianne Nicholson is Diane Rawlinson in "I, Tonya." The movie is now available on DVD.

"I, Tonya": This tale of infamous ice skater Tonya Harding — from her first days on the ice to the aftermath of what is known as "the incident" — is a well-written, cleverly directed and fun look at a headline-making story that has been told before. The film is a weird hybrid of fact, fiction and documentary. The main reasons to check out the DVD are the performances by Margot Robbie as Harding and Allison Janney ("Mom") as her mother. Robbie's skill comes through on and off the ice as she gets across the blue-collar elements of Harding that worked against her in competitions. But it is Janney who steals the movie. If Harding's mother was one-millionth as cruel and brutal as Janney plays her, it's a wonder Harding didn't go around breaking kneecaps all the time. Her work alone makes this a wickedly fun film to watch.

"The Disaster Artist": How much background you have with the 2003 feature film "The Room" (not to be confused with the 2015 Brie Larson film "Room") will make the difference in watching "The Disaster Artist" of thinking James Franco is brilliant or he's completely lost his acting mind. Those seeing it with no knowledge of the original production will find "The Disaster Artist" to be a quirky look at the movie business. Anyone who has seen "The Room" — or at least looked at clips from the film on YouTube — will see this as an incredible peek at what happens when those with no business making movies produce a film. The best way to fully appreciate "The Disaster Artist" would be to see it as a double feature with "The Room." Since that's not likely to happen (and that's not the worst thing), "The Disaster Artist" can still be fully appreciated on its own. Franco has placed enough links to the original film that his based-on-fact look at the making of "The Room" is weirdly fun on its own and one of the most creative films of the year.

Also new on March 13:

"The Shape of Water": An otherworldly fairy tale is set against the backdrop of Cold War-era America circa 1962.

"Ferdinand": After being mistaken for a dangerous beast and torn from his home, a bull rallies a team of friends to help him return to his family.

"Call Me by Your Name": Teenager begins a relationship with an older man. Arnie Hammer stars.

"Fear the Walking Dead: Season 3": Families must come together to survive the apocalypse and combat the deadly threats on all sides as society collapses around them.

"The Handmaid's Tale: Season One": Series starring Elisabeth Moss based on Margaret Atwood's award-winning, best-selling novel.

— Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

Alan Cumming has good 'Instinct' about new series

Alan Cumming plays Dr. Dylan Reinhart on the new series "Instinct." The show is based on a James Patterson novel.

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

At first glance, the new CBS series "Instinct" looks like just another cop show where a renegade police officer is assigned a partner who has an expertise in another world. It's when you look closer that it becomes clear what a history-making series it is.

"Instinct" is the first American network television drama to have a gay character as the lead.

Alan Cumming plays Dr. Dylan Reinhart, a gifted author and university professor living a quiet life. NYPD detective Lizzie Neeldham (Bojana Novakovic) appeals to him to help her catch a serial murderer who is using Reinhart's first book as a tutorial. The series is based on the James Patterson novel.

"Instinct" is the first leading role in an American series for a gay actor, who has previously spent most of his time on stage or starring in feature films. It was a role that was too good — and too important — for Cumming to reject.

"It's really just that it's such a sort of confounding character. There's so many different layers to it. He's sort of a fuddy duddy professor, a bit of a dandy. He kind of is a former spy. He drives a motorbike. He's gay," Cumming said. "There's all these different things that seemingly there are so many different layers. And I guess the challenge was to make them all into one sort of whole person."

He's also kind of on the spectrum. He's a child musical prodigy. There's a lot going on. And I just really liked that idea of he's kind of, as you say in America, he opens up a kind of whoop ass sometimes. And that's quite a nice thing to be able to do in your 50s."

There's a lot going on with the character, but the most important element for Cumming was that he's playing the first gay lead on a CBS series. Along with being one of the busiest actors in Hollywood, Cumming is very active in humanitarian work, particularly in

the field of LGBT rights and equality. He has been honored by the Human Rights Commission, GLAAD, The Trevor Project and The Matthew Shepard Foundation, among many others.

The fact this television series is breaking new ground by having a gay character as the lead is both an incredible thing and a terrible thing at the same time for Cumming.

"It definitely was something that it's another layer to the character that makes it interesting to play, but sort of socially and politically, especially in the time that we find ourselves in America, where gay people are being

Cumming, who is also an executive producer on the series, is making sure that everything about his character is portrayed in a proper way. The fact that Cumming is in a same-sex marriage gives him a natural insight to that part of the story. He's also very conscious of the fact that most times when gay characters are presented on American television, their sexual orientation is the primary thing.

Cumming says, "The gayness is somehow a problem. What I think is really refreshing about this, and what I was definitely advocating, was that there's a successful relationship and

"It's really just that it's such a sort of confounding character. ... He's sort of a fuddy duddy professor, a bit of a dandy. He kind of is a former spy. He drives a motorbike. He's gay. There's all these different things that seemingly there are so many different layers. And I guess the challenge was to make them all into one sort of whole person."

— Alan Cumming

persecuted again and their rights are being removed and the president is actively condoning, by his silence, violence and persecution against the LGBT community," Cumming said. "I think it's all the more important that we should have a character with a healthy, successful same-sex marriage on network screens."

"I really do applaud everyone at CBS and Secret Hideout for having the courage to put that on right now in a kind of environment or a climate that you might think possibly might not be the best time to do that. But I think it's actually the perfect time. It needs to be done, and I'm really proud to be a part of that."

very supportive of each other, and it's also the fourth or fifth most interesting thing about the character."

There was already pressure on Cumming just to be stepping into the lead role in a network series, but that pressure increased because the character is making history. Cumming is aware that it might not matter how well the show is written, shot and performed, there will be people who just don't like him or the character. He's handling that pressure by keeping huge hope in his heart that the show will find an audience, but if it doesn't, he will still have all the positive memories of working on the show.

CBS

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

6 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR BRAIN SHARP

BY LESLIE BARKER/The Dallas Morning News



When it comes to our brains, even the non-medical types among us pretty much know what we need to be doing. In a nutshell: exercising and eating right.

But when it comes to our brains, guidelines tend to be foggier. Besides, we figure, since we're probably as smart as we'll ever be, what can we possibly do?

Plenty, but let's start with this reminder: Just because right this second you can't remember the name of your first-grade teacher, that doesn't mean your smarts are on the wane. Not by a long shot.

"Science is showing for the first time in 30 years that our brain is the most modifiable part of our body and easiest to strengthen, more than our heart or teeth," says Sandra Bond Chapman, founder and chief director of the Center for Brain Health at the University of Texas at Dallas. The center opened a new facility in October: the Brain Performance Institute, which offers scientifically based programs to enhance brain performance and health.

Although Alzheimer's now tops heart disease and cancer when it comes to our fear factor about diseases, Chapman says strengthening your brain is more than decreasing the chance of developing dementia. Instead, it's about increasing brain health, two words not often thought of in the same breath when Chapman started her center in 1999.

But let's change that, shall we? Here are tips from Chapman and other experts:

Exercise.

This isn't completely surprising. What, after all, isn't made better by exercise? Research about the connection between exercise and brain health was the topic of a recent symposium sponsored by the Cooper Institute and the Center for Brain Health.

Fitness has been linked to a healthier brain in a study by UT Southwestern's O'Donnell Brain Institute and the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine at Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas.

"We think if you have a good cardiovascular fitness level, your heart is stronger and blood supply healthier, and you have a better chance to get enough blood supply for the brain," says Dr. Kan Ding, a neurologist with the Brain Institute and lead author of the study. "That's very important for brain health, because the brain is a very unique organ. All the energy it needs is from blood from the rest of the body, so blood supply is very important for the brain."

The study examined the fitness levels of people who had a high risk for developing dementia by having them walk on a treadmill. Then they underwent a special MRI sequence called diffusion tensor imaging, "which is able to show us all the white matter in your brain," she says, "and how the neurons connect to each other."

The result: "The higher your fitness level, the better the highway system in your brain. Those with the better highway system did better on our cognitive performance test, on brain games to test how fast you respond to a question, or how many words you can remember."

This study "shows exercise is a promising way to prevent or slow cognitive decline in that population." It's the first study, she says, to show that exercise does more than make you feel good; it shows the structural impact of exercise.

Aim for 30 minutes most days.

Take five.

In this 24/7 world, there is always something with which to clog or entertain our brain. But, Chapman says, "our brain loves to be reset. Five-by-five is what we call it. Take five minutes five times a day to let your brain stop. It could be a walk around where you are inside, or go outside. Let your engine reset."

Stop multitasking.

Ah, how tempting it is to be talking on the phone while surfing online while cooking dinner. But that is making our brain networks "more frayed," Chapman says. "Brain efficiency breaks down. We're making an older brain out of a younger brain."

The paradox, she says, is that people tend to think, "I'm doing three things at once, so I must be more efficient." However, she says, "When you try to do three things at once, there are more errors, they take longer to do, and they're more shallow."

So instead of taking pride in pushing yourself to do two or three things at once — which stresses out the brain and can lead to depression, she says — focus on single-tasking. "Doing one thing for a concerted period of time will strengthen the brain and increase energy tremendously."

Increase your fruit and vegetable intake.

"The way we eat affects our energy; it affects our glucose," Chapman says. "Our brain is a greedy animal. If we're eating foods that require a lot of digestive juices, that takes away from our brain. What's good for your heart is good for your brain."

Sarah Lock, executive director of AARP's Global Council on Brain Health, recommends five types of food we all need to be eating on a regular basis to keep our brains in tip-top shape: Whole berries, fresh vegetables, healthy fats (such as olive oil), nuts (in moderation) and fish and seafood.

Take timeouts from technology.

"Take a respite. You'll see a quick rebound, and guess what? You haven't missed that much," Chapman says.

Believe in your brain.

Our brain system starts slowing down as early as our 40s, Chapman says, "but only because we let it." True, some people will develop Alzheimer's, especially because the population is aging. But, she adds, "on average, 87 percent of people won't." And if we're genetically prone to Alzheimer's but have taken care of our brains, we'll have reserve to push back the symptoms by perhaps three to five years, she says.

"Healthy lifestyle factors can mitigate the onset, but we don't necessarily know exactly how long," she says. Even without that knowledge, "Why wouldn't we build brain reserve? We save for investment retirement."

"The way we're going to solve all the world's issues is our brainpower. For economic and emotional well-being, it's all in our heads."

WEEKEND: FAMILY



KIM HARRISON, THE BALTIMORE SUN/AP

Damion Champ, right, who has a 6-year-old daughter, takes instruction Feb. 23 in Baltimore on how to braid a mannequin's hair from Takaiah Young, 17, a senior studying cosmetology.

Weaving tight bonds

Workshop teaches dads how to do daughters' hair

By TALIA RICHMAN
The Baltimore Sun

Damion Champ knew only one way to do his little girl's hair: a style he calls the emergency ghetto-fabulous ponytail.

Beyond that, his only solution for fixing up his 6-year-old daughter's locks was to "look for women who already do hair and ask them how much they charge."

But Champ, who is 46, attended a recent workshop at Eutaw Marshburn Elementary School that taught him how to do braids, buns and twists. The event reflects a growing effort by Baltimore City Public Schools to get fathers more involved in their children's lives.

"My daughter would be laughing so hard right now if she saw me," Champ said as he struggled to braid the long hair of a mannequin. By the end of the two-hour session, he'd mastered a bun — and planned to try it out over the weekend.

Eutaw Marshburn's Judy Center has hosted "Fatherhood Fridays" once a month for the past two years. The school brings together a small group of dads to talk about anything from child support to how to get criminal records expunged.

But many dads came to Kimberly Dudley, a family service coordinator at the school, with a common request: They wanted tips on how to do their daughters' hair.

"They expressed that they may not be with their kid's mother or have joint custody," she said. "When the girls are sent over, they don't know what to do."

It's bigger than just hair, Dudley said. The time a dad spends brushing and styling his daughter's hair is time he can spend asking about her friends, her classes, her ambitions.

"When you're doing your baby's hair, that's quality time," she said.

Across the city, the district has been holding similar events in schools to emphasize the role of fathers. At a meeting this fall, called Dads and Dialogue, a group of men discussed how to change the narrative around absentee fathers in Baltimore. They shared tips on how to help their children with reading and talked about strategies to get more dads involved in Parent Teacher Associations.

District officials said they believe that when male caregivers are involved in their children's education, those children do better in school.

Research backs this up: The U.S. Department of Education found that children of highly involved fathers are 43 percent more likely than other children to earn mostly As, and less likely to be suspended, expelled or repeat a grade.

"Having fathers involved and invested is paramount," said Yolanda Abel, an associate professor in teaching and learning at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Education whose research has focused on these family relationships. "It gives children a more solid foundation of who they are as a person, and therefore, they have less disruptive relationships to process and handle."

Every dad who attended the workshop at Eutaw Marshburn — called Daddy Hair Care — was

given a copy of the children's book "I Love My Hair" with cover art depicting a young black girl with beaded braids.

The girl in the book is told she is lucky to have her hair because it is "beautiful and you can wear it in any style you choose."

Each father also was given a packet with tips for how to do black children's hair. "Your baby girl is your pride and joy, and her hair should be her crown and glory," the packet reads.

The workshop was done in partnership with Carver Vocational-Technical High School. Students from the school's cosmetology program taught the class, instructing the fathers on the right amount of moisturizer to use and how to clip in barrettes.

To earn a state license, Carver's cosmetology students need to log 1,500 hours of training. Events like Daddy Hair Care help them chip away at that requirement.

Kenya Griffin, 19, remembers how her father had "not a clue" about how to do her hair when she was growing up. She taught other dads how to do a braided Mohawk, laughing as they tried to figure out the steps.

Rodney Wallace said he previously only did his 5-year-old daughter's hair if he absolutely had to.

But now, he said, he's looking forward to implementing the tips and tricks he's learned.

"It's a different bonding experience for us," said Wallace, 32. "This is something positive for us to be doing. I do what makes her happy. If she likes it, I like it."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Van trouble shows that respect is a 2-way street

I never imagined that our family's old minivan — the budget-friendly 2005 Toyota with embarrassing fifth ground into her carpets, a spider infestation and a pizza box once taped over a broken window — would one day teach me a profound lesson about the innate goodness of the human race.

But it happened last week.

Despite the fact that our minivan has safely transported our family during many tours of duty, I've been longing for an upgrade. She served us faithfully, never quitting when the kids upchucked onto her upholstery or dropped sticky fruit snacks between her seats. Her dashboard sometimes lit up like a Christmas tree, but her engine never quit. She never left us stranded, whether negotiating the pristine autobahns of Stuttgart or the dicey inner-city streets near our kids' school in Jacksonville.

But when we got orders to the Naval War College in fancy-schmancy Newport, R.I., our minivan stuck out like a sore thumb. Our public school kids were offered scholarships to become day students at a prestigious local boarding school. As "the military kids" among mostly privileged students, they were a novelty at first, but they soon fit in just like everyone else.

Well, almost.

I'd show up to school dropoffs in our bedraggled minivan, making a scene among the shiny European imports driven by the other parents. To make matters worse, the doors froze shut on cold mornings, requiring our kids to climb in and out of the hatchback door.

So when news of Winter Storm Riley hit last week, I parked our minivan under a big tree in our front yard and prayed for Mother Nature to put her out of our misery. Alas, not so much as a twig fell on her dull, pitted hood.

The next day, my husband, Francis, and I drove to the school to watch a basketball game. Driving past Audis, Range Rovers, and BMWs, we found the only parking spot left in a grassy area behind the field house.

When the game was over, returned to the waiting van. "Oh crap," Francis barked from the driver's seat, "she's stuck in the mud!"

Sure enough, when Francis pressed the gas, the wheels oozed deeper into the storm-saturated earth. Francis got out to push, but this only aggravated his sciatica. I pitched handfuls of gravel into the sloppy ruts and shoved an abandoned two-by-four under the wheel. Nothing worked.

Francis and I were mortified. Not only did we own the most unsightly vehicle in the parking lot, we were also making a scene, revving the old heap's engine, splattering mud and gouging the pristine grounds of the campus.

Regardless of our shame, we needed help. The useless revving of the engine finally attracted other parents. Soon, four couples were pushing our front bumper with all their might.

"One, two, three!" I bellowed. They groaned and shoved against mushy turf while I hit the gas. Strangers brought bundles of sticks, sheets of plywood and rubber floor mats for traction. But after many attempts to free our heap from the sludge, our makeshift team had nothing to show for itself but filthy shoes and soil-splattered clothing.

Defeated but touched by our fellow parents' kindness, we bid the good Samaritans adieu and called for a tow truck.

Driving home after the fiasco, I was ashamed that I'd thought the parents at our school would avoid helping us. I knew about the "military-civilian divide" and I'd assumed it was all their fault. "Civilians don't understand us. Civilians won't give us a chance. Civilians don't respect our sacrifices," I'd thought.

Perhaps it's not fair to place all the blame on them. Military communities can be insular, and we often behave as if we've cornered the market on service and honor. But our civilian neighbors deserve the same understanding and compassion that we demand from them.

It took our minivan 216,370 odometer miles to teach us that respect is a two-way street, but I gratefully patting her dashboard as we parked her back under the big tree to await the next storm.

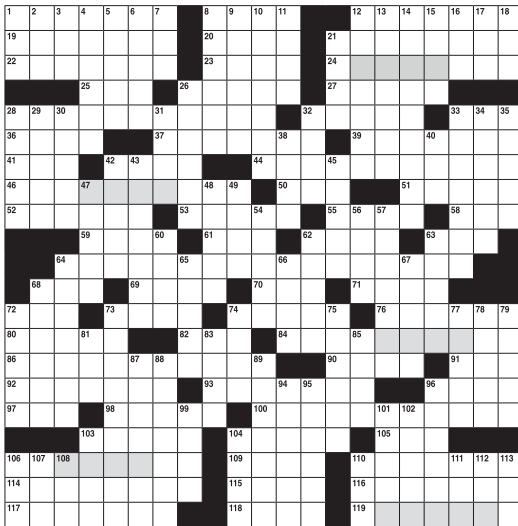
Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IF FOUND, CALL ...
BY MATTHEW SEWELL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Heading on a neighborhood poster
- 8 Radio personality Glenn
- 12 Bump, as from a schedule
- 19 Standing closet
- 20 Poison-ivy soother
- 21 Huts
- 22 Anti-mob tool
- 23 Dryer buildup
- 24 "1984" superstate
- 25 "Get 'em!"
- 26 Power up?
- 27 High land
- 28 Last seen riding in a basket. If found, call ____ [see 106-Across]
- 32 Mix with
- 33 Fall off
- 36 Pizzeria chain, casually
- 37 Like a certain Freudian complex
- 39 Graduation attire
- 41 It goes around the neck
- 42 Doesn't just assume
- 44 Last seen in the nursery. If found, call ____ [see 84-Across]
- 46 One who can't keep weight off for long
- 50 Tempe sch.
- 51 Scream or bawl, e.g.
- 52 Like most holidays
- 53 Reverses, as a deletion
- 55 "Darn it all!"
- 58 It may hold the line
- 59 Toll rds.
- 61 Yokohama "yes"
- 62 Tijuana setting, informally
- 63 Postal abbr. for a rural address
- 64 Last seen with a red-haired girl. If found, call ____ [see 119-Across]
- 68 Drone, for one
- 69 Cyclotron bits
- 70 "Here's an idea ..."
- 71 Some bygone theaters
- 72 Bleat
- 73 Confere
- 74 Food-cart offerings
- 76 One of the Marceses of the Philippines
- 80 Alphabetically first "American idol" judge across all 16 seasons
- 82 Go from bud to blossom, to a poet
- 84 Pretend
- 86 Last seen chasing down clues. If found, call ____ [see 24-Across]
- 90 Poet who wrote of Daedalus
- 91 ____-green
- 92 Theme song of Milton Berle
- 93 Forms, forms and more forms
- 96 Sash supporter
- 97 Any of the Baltic states, once: Abch.
- 98 What's left on TV?
- 100 Last seen being mocked by a cat. If found, call ____ [see 46-Across]
- 103 Gambling mecca
- 104 Increase
- 105 Lilt
- 106 Proceed enthusiastically
- 109 Symbol gotten by typing Option+Shift+2
- 110 Hit straight to the shortstop, perhaps
- 114 Promo
- 115 War loser, usually
- 116 Declared
- 117 Storied journey
- 118 Puts the kibosh on
- 119 Algebraic variables
- DOWN**
- 1 Rowing muscle, for short
- 2 Iron Range product
- 3 Wee, to a Scot
- 4 Chests' places
- 5 Sudoku entry
- 6 Herb resembling spinach
- 7 Some kitchen appliances, for short
- 8 Adele's "Someone Like You," e.g.
- 9 Hebrew for "My God! My God!"
- 10 Idea
- 11 Eta of old comics
- 12 Sister of Ariadne
- 13 More hoarse
- 14 Snares
- 15 List-reducing abbr.
- 16 Prefix with play and place
- 17 Charlottetown's prov.
- 18 Checkpoint org.
- 21 Post
- 26 Discharges
- 28 Kind of dip
- 30 One-named Swedish singer with the Grammy-nominated song "Dancing on My Own"
- 31 It goes around the neck
- 32 Inn stock
- 33 The U.S., to Mexicans
- 34 Hallux, more familiarly
- 35 Stationed (at)
- 38 Clicking sounds?
- 40 Gold medal, to an Olympian
- 42 Repurpose
- 43 Dressy accessory
- 45 Boxing champ Roberto
- 47 Navel type
- 48 Cultural values
- 49 Where the engine is in a Porsche 911
- 54 A bit stiff
- 56 A bit cracked
- 57 Modest two-piece swimsuit
- 60 Sharply sour fruit
- 62 Ecosystem endangered by global warming
- 63 Up
- 64 Pacer
- 65 2000s corporate scandal subject



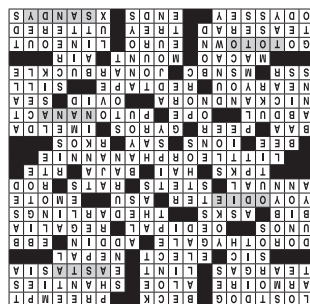
- 66 Heavenly sound?
- 67 Vagabond
- 68 Coddles
- 72 Marriage announcement
- 73 Some centerfolds
- 74 Golden Globe-winning actor for "Chicago"
- 75 Visit during a trip
- 77 Vision-correcting procedure
- 78 Big battery
- 79 Subtitle of Hawthorne's "Fanshawe"
- 81 Former part of the U.S.S.R.: Abbr.
- 83 Alternative to boeuf or jambon
- 85 (continued)
- 87 Love all around?
- 88 Actress Faye
- 89 Stop for now
- 94 Save the sights
- 95 Ruffles
- 96 Moviedom
- 99 My word, maybe
- 101 Lures
- 102 Utah's ____ Mountains
- 103 Some greenery that's not grass
- 104 Parcel (out)
- 106 '60s Pontiac
- 107 Webster's Third competitor, for short
- 108 Scotland's longest river
- 110 Start of Yale's motto
- 111 Chicago terminal code
- 112 Double-back move
- 113 QB's tally

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



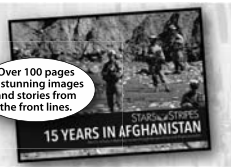
STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at www.stripesstore.com



FACES

His take

'American Idol' contestant:
Perry kiss not harassment

Singer Katy Perry kissed a contestant on "American Idol," and he did not like it.

But Benjamin Glaze is downplaying some backlash aimed at Perry, who is a judge on the show. The 19-year-old took to Instagram on Wednesday to say he did not think he was sexually harassed.

The singer from Oklahoma says he was uncomfortable when Perry kissed him on the lips as he auditioned during the show's two-night season opener on ABC. Glaze says he had never been kissed before.

He needed some water before singing Nick Jonas' "Levels," which Perry called "a bit rushed."

Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan did not send Glaze to the next round. Glaze says he should have signed another song and calmed himself down regardless of the kiss.

To see the Instagram post: [instagram.com/p/BgUZ67XHA8r](https://www.instagram.com/p/BgUZ67XHA8r)

From The Associated Press

While auditioning on "American Idol," Benjamin Glaze was kissed by judge Katy Perry. ABC



CNN's Chris Cuomo making the move to prime time

From wire reports

CNN is sending Chris Cuomo into battle against the two current giants of cable television news, Sean Hannity and Rachel Maddow.

The network said Wednesday that they are shifting the morning show co-host into a prime-time slot at 9 p.m. EDT, to debut later this spring at a date not yet specified. The change will shave Anderson Cooper's current two-hour show to one.

CNN has struggled in prime time as viewers retreated into partisan corners. Cuomo, the brother of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has found a niche with sharp questioning of Trump administration officials and maintains an active social media presence.

"Cuomo Prime Time," which was tested on the network in January, will include interviews with newsmakers, news analyses and breaking stories.

"We will test power," Cuomo tweeted on Wednesday. "Every. Damn. Day. Just like always. Have to talk to people more and ABOUT them less. Debate with decency. The need is clear. Hopefully we help fill it."

Cuomo's spot on "New Day" will be filled by CNN's John Berman, who joins current co-host Alisyn Camerota.

Jamaican act Flourish sings Miley Cyrus

Jamaican artist Flourish has sued Miley Cyrus and Sony Music for the singer's 2013 song "We Can't Stop."

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in New York City, claims Cyrus' megahit borrows from Flourish's 1988 song "We Run Things."

On her song, Cyrus sings: "We run things, things don't run we." Flourish's song includes virtually the same line, "We run things, things no run we."

Flourish's real name is Michael May. The lawsuit, which seeks \$300 million in damages, also names RCA Records, which is a Sony label, and Mike WILL Made-It, who

produced and co-wrote "We Can't Stop."

Cyrus' song became an international multiplatinum hit, giving her an official pop star breakthrough. The song reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

A representative for the defendants didn't immediately return an email seeking comment.

'Willy Wonka' star appears as contestant on 'Jeopardy'

He played a boy who does nothing but watch TV and wears cowboy clothing in the 1971 movie "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory."

Who is "Jeopardy" contestant Paris Themmen?

Themmen appeared on the game show on Tuesday. But he didn't tell Alex Trebek about his role as Mike Teevewh when the host asked him about himself. Themmen said he was an "avid backpacker." However, some fans of the movie pointed it out on Twitter.

Themmen finished in second place.

Fraser promotes 'Trust' after alleging misconduct

Brendan Fraser feels a sense of relief after publicly revealing he was the victim of alleged sexual misconduct in 2003.

Fraser shared his feelings about the incident while promoting the upcoming FX television miniseries "Trust" on Wednesday at a New York screening.

Fraser alleged in an interview with GQ magazine that Hollywood Foreign Press Association president Philip Berke intimately groped him. Berke denies it, saying he just "pinned" the actor. Fraser says the incident changed him, making him feel "more reclusive." But he says getting the burden off his chest after 15 years "felt good."

Fraser plays a private investigator hired by J. Paul Getty to "fix" problems, including the kidnapping of his grandson that the series centers on. The show premieres in

the U.S. on March 25.

NBC News says it wants to start streaming service

NBC News is exploring ways to start a streaming service for its news division.

"We want to do this and I think we've got to open that door," NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack said on Wednesday.

The service would operate alongside NBC's cable channel, MSNBC, which benefits from the interest in politics and frequently is the second most popular cable channel in prime time after Fox News Channel.

Television networks are exploring different ways to deal with cord-cutters and young people more interested in following news on their devices. Lack wouldn't reveal any details about how NBC is looking to do it beyond saying it's on the drawing board.

Other news

■ Wielding a silver shovel instead of a lightsaber, Star Wars creator **George Lucas** joined a handful of elected officials Wednesday in breaking ground on a billion-dollar museum dedicated to the art of visual storytelling. Construction of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, a dream of the 73-year-old writer-director for more than a decade, is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

■ **Lisa Brennan-Jobs**, daughter of the late **Steve Jobs**, has a book deal. Grove Press announced Wednesday that Brennan-Jobs is working on a coming-of-age memoir, "Small Fry." The book is scheduled for Sept. 4. Grove Press is calling book the "poignant" story of growing up in different worlds and contending with a famous and unpredictable father.

■ Reality TV personality **Josh Dugger** has filed another lawsuit in Arkansas over the release of decade-old investigation records related to the molestation of his sisters when they were juveniles. Dug-



Morning show co-host Chris Cuomo is moving to evenings on CNN.

gar filed his latest lawsuit against Springfield and Washington County in state court March 9, the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported. City and county officials improperly publicized records of a 2006 juvenile investigation performed by the Springdale Police Department, acting in cooperation with the Arkansas State Police, according to the lawsuit.

■ **Rapper Juelz Santana** has pleaded not guilty to drug and gun charges stemming from an incident at Newark Liberty International Airport last week. Santana entered his plea in Newark on Wednesday to two state weapons charges and a drug possession charge. Authorities say security personnel found a loaded .38-caliber handgun and oxydnone pills he didn't have a prescription for in a carry-on bag containing his identification on March 9. They say he had fled the area, leaving two bags behind. He turned himself in on Monday.

■ Prosecutors in Philadelphia are not opposed to the release of rapper **Meek Mill** while he appeals a probation violation sentence, they said on Wednesday, citing concerns about whether his conviction will ultimately be upheld. Mill, whose real name is Robert Rihmeek Williams, was sentenced in November to two to four years in prison for violating probation on a roughly decade-old gun and drug case.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content
croyley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erk Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erk@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
+1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

Europe

Uro Rowell, rowell.uro@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

1(202)761.0900, DSN (312)763.0900;
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

OMBUSMAN

Tobias Naegle

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns from readers, and monitors, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at naegle.tobias@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0900.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, unit #5002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #5002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmeritoric factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2018

stripes.com

OPINION

Hawking taught us it was right to be wrong

By ADAM MINTER
Bloomberg View

In 2002, the future Nobel Prize-winner Peter Higgs joined several fellow physicists at a dinner in Edinburgh, Scotland. Drinks flowed, and professional inective followed. The physicists were frustrated by, and perhaps a little jealous of, Stephen Hawking, the newspaper the Scotsman reported the next morning. "It is very difficult to engage him (Hawking) in discussion, and so he has got away with pronouncements in a way that other people would not," Higgs is quoted as saying. "His celebrity status gives him instant credibility that others do not have."

Higgs had reason to feel aggrieved. Two years earlier, Hawking had placed a very public \$100 bet that the Higgs boson, a subatomic particle theorized in the 1960s, would never be found. In professional physics and cosmology, where being right is the surest route to a prestigious reward, it was tantamount to an insult. And Higgs, whose legacy was that particle, took it personally.

For Hawking, who died Wednesday at 76, it wasn't personal. It was just science. For years, he'd been making — and losing — public bets on fundamental questions of physics. He felt no shame in these reputations but rather reveled in them, knowing that science advances when its participants are wrong as well as right. His willingness to admit that reality at his own self-deprecating expense is an important part of his legacy as a public intellectual — and a lesson for our polarized times.

High-profile scientific bets date at least to the late 19th century. They've become more common in recent years as research-



Hawking

ers leverage better communication technologies to raise awareness of basic scientific questions and disputes. Hawking, more than most of his peers, seemed to appreciate the possibilities. In 1974, he bet CalTech physicist Kip Thorne that Cygnus X-1, a bright object in the constellation Cygnus, wasn't a black hole. In 1990, he announced that the accumulated evidence meant he'd lost the bet (which he paid off with a subscription to Penthouse). The subsequent publicity raised the profile of black holes, and Hawking, for years.

Hawking continued wagering. In 1997, he and Thorne bet another CalTech physicist, John Preskill, that information swallowed by a black hole could never be retrieved. If Hawking and Thorne were right, the finding would undermine the basic tenets of physics. Hawking worked on the problem until 2004, when he used the occasion of a major physics conference to announce he'd devised a calculation that proved he was wrong. As the losing party, he presented to Preskill a baseball encyclopedia from which information could easily be retrieved. The bet was covered globally, as was the scientific question at the heart of it — and Hawking's embrace of his own error.

Hawking's bets were generally made with friends and colleagues unlikely to feel the sting of losing to the celebrity scientist. When Hawking bet against the Higgs

boson, he wagered with Gordon Kane at the University of Michigan, not Higgs himself. The intention was good-natured. Hawking believed that a failure to discover the predicted particle would be more interesting for physics.

Higgs didn't take kindly to the suggestion and, rather than engage Hawking, continued to call into question his scholarship. Ever the gentleman, Hawking didn't take the bait. After the Higgs boson was confirmed in 2012, he made a global spectacle of paying off the \$100 wager, admitting he was wrong and calling for Higgs — his longtime critic — to be given the Nobel.

Hawking's humility and graciousness would be rare in any age, but particularly at a time when conceding even the slightest error is viewed as a weakness to be derided and exploited. As key scientific fields like climate change and vaccinations become politicized, this kind of rigidity also infects how we do and don't discuss them. Public-facing scientists become reluctant to concede uncertainty about data for fear that the admission will undermine funding and support for their research. The result: well-intentioned intellectuals who feel obligated to present science as a series of truths not to be argued or doubted.

If Hawking's life can teach anything to scientists, public intellectuals and social media influencers, it's that humility and a willingness to change one's mind are a sign of not weakness but an adventurous and intellectually engaged mind and polity. That's a legacy as worthy as Hawking's monumental scientific achievements.

Adam Minter is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is the author of "Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade."

Others took the talk; students walked

By HELAINE OLEN
Special To The Washington Post

A huge number of students across the United States left their classes Wednesday morning to remember the victims of last month's Florida shooting and to show their support for gun control legislation. As The Washington Post wrote in its coverage, the National Student Walkout is "unprecedented in recent American history."

Let's be clear about what's going on here. Since the shooting at Marjory Douglas Stoneman High School in Parkland, Fla., in which 17 people, mostly young, were killed, students have used social media, confronted politicians and teamed up with established organizations to build a nationwide movement for gun control. It may be the most vital and strong such movement we've seen in years.

On Wednesday, students walked away from their desks not just at high schools, but at colleges and even elementary schools to participate in one of a school in an action led by two 11-year-old students.

In Portland, Maine, where schools were closed due to a severe snowstorm, two dozen students from King Middle School arranged to meet at nearby Monument Square. In Alexandria, Va., several dozen children, many of whom were met by their parents, gathered for a walk in an action led by two 11-year-old students.

"In the beginning, our principal wasn't completely supportive but by the second or third day of doing this, that week, he was completely supportive," one protester told the Guardian. "Nobody expects a bunch of 10- and 11-year-olds to stand up and start walking out of the school building."

While the protests were larger in the blue states where they enjoy strong support

from adults — in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined a group of high school students protesting in Zucotti Park — others walked out in smaller numbers. At a high school in Marietta, Ga., where the school's 1,000 students were reportedly "warned against" taking part in the protest, three students left the building despite the presence of police officers stationed to discourage the action.

Even corporations are beginning to join in. Viacom, the corporate parent of Comedy Central and MTV, released a statement headlined "Viacom to support courageous youth activists who have had enough of gun violence," and allowed screens on their television channels to go blank for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. Wednesday to signify their support for the school walkout. Lyft recently announced it would offer students complementary transportation to the next expected mass action, a March 24 march on Washington and in other cities called March for Our Lives.

As this shows, not all this action is taking place without adult assistance. The mass action Wednesday was initially planned by the organizers of the Women's March. That has led some to claim that students are being manipulated by greater adult left-wing forces. Fox News commentator Todd Starnes claimed the media is "cynically using a lot of traumatized teens" to attack President Donald Trump, while former Milwaukee sheriff David Clarke tweeted that some of the organizing has "GEORGE SOROS' FINGERPRINTS all over it." (Yes, the caps are his.)

But this idea — which is half concern trolling and half conspiracy theorizing — is absurd. This movement started not with adult action, but in conversations between Parkland students in the hours after

the massacre at their school, and it quickly spread to social media. It took almost everyone by surprise.

It shouldn't have, of course. The struggle for gun regulations deserves a mass movement. The United States has more gun violence than any other First World country. We are responsible for almost one-third of mass shootings in the entire world over the past several decades. Mass shootings continue to occur even as violent crime is mostly falling in the United States. Many different types of gun regulations enjoy broad popular support.

What's more, the issue demonstrates how politicians of both parties remain captured by interest groups and lobbyists — I'm looking at you, National Rifle Association — while ignoring the genuine needs of the people who elected them. When the teenagers of Parkland — perhaps traumatized, perhaps furious — began to speak truth to power, it turned out there were millions of Americans, children and adults, simply waiting for someone to begin to demand change and refuse to accept no for an answer.

Don't get me wrong. No one is expecting immediate movement on the issue — Trump, for one, is so in thrall to the NRA that he quickly backed away from his promises of action. It's going to be a long slog. But momentum appears to be on the side of the teens. And little wonder: They possess more energy and enthusiasm and, in the time-honored play of youth, they are less cynical about what can be accomplished. The kids are all right.

Helaine Olen is a contributor to The Washington Post and the author of "Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry." Her work has appeared in The New York Times, the Atlantic and many other publications. She serves on the advisory board of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Chaos with production values Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

If you thought fake news was bad, better hold on to your hat. It's only going to get worse.

The New York Times reports that technology has advanced to the point that, with some off-the-web software and a little effort, people can now create fake videos. They are not yet sophisticated enough to fool the careful observer, but that will change. Once, it took a huge Hollywood studio to create a clip of Forrest Gump shaking hands with John F. Kennedy. Soon anyone will be able to do it in their basement.

That means that in the near future it will be possible to create, say, a video clip that shows a political candidate confessing to murder, or kicking a puppy, or doing something even worse, like rooting for the Dallas Cowboys.

Most people probably will use the technology the way they use face-swapping apps now: to post funny things on social media. But others could cause a great deal of mayhem. Imagine a candidate for the state legislature trying to prove, say, that he never threw up in a strip club when a video purports to show him doing just that.

The potential for havoc is huge. Still, there is an upside: Fake videos, like fake news generally, could renew interest in epistemology: the study of knowledge — and how we know what we know — and whether we are justified in knowing it. This isn't to say dollar stores will start selling T-shirts of Edmund Husserl and Willard V.O. Quine. But optimistically, a few philosophy professors might want to get ready for their close-up.

Video games a punching bag Boston Herald

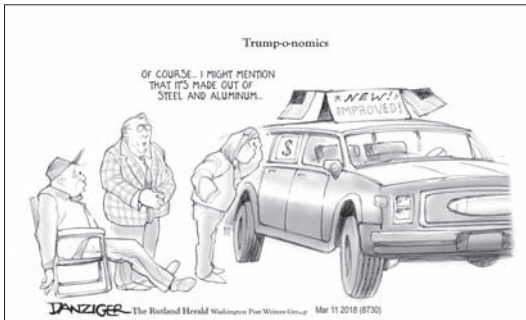
President Donald Trump used the shooting in Parkland, Fla., to convene a group at the White House last week to discuss the possible nexus between violent video games and actual violence, despite the lack of conclusive evidence that such a nexus exists. No less an authority than the U.S. Supreme Court said in 2011 there is no "compelling" link.

And talk about going from the trivial to the titanic: The video game meeting was on the same day the president said he will meet for direct talks with the repressive leader of nuclear-armed North Korea. Hey, the president gets to pick his priorities — and it seems that in addition to meeting with Little Rocket Man one of his main goals is shifting the focus away from gun control to other "causes" of school violence.

The president is not alone in his concern about the impact of violent video games on young people. President Barack Obama raised similar concerns when he was in office.

But even if the research were on Trump's side — then what?

In that landmark Supreme Court case overturning a California law in 2011 the high court declared that video games represent a form of speech protected under the First Amendment, and said California couldn't carve out a violence exemption. We realize this president doesn't have much use for the First Amendment, but even he can't do without the power to yank "Can of Dirty" or "Grand Theft Auto" off store shelves.



And so what the meeting amounted to was a gripe-fest — a distraction from Trump's own mixed messages on gun control. It was also a sop to folks like National Rifle Association head Wayne LaPierre, who has famously castigated entertainment companies for inciting violence.

In other words, it was a waste of time.

Calif. overstepped its authority The Orange County (Calif.) Register

Attorney General Jeff Sessions' announcement this month that the Justice Department is suing California over its so-called sanctuary policies is the latest escalation in the conflict between the Golden State and the Trump administration.

Speaking at the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Legislative Day hosted by the California Peace Officers' Association, Sessions strongly denounced California's efforts to obstruct the work of federal immigration agents.

"Contrary to what you might hear from the lawless open-borders radicals, we are not asking California, Oakland or anyone else to enforce immigration laws," Sessions said. "We are simply asking California and other sanctuary jurisdictions to stop actively obstructing federal law enforcement."

The lawsuit, filed March 6, seeks to block three state laws enacted last year.

The first is the Immigrant Worker Protection Act, which among other things prohibits employers in California from allowing ICE agents into their workplace without a warrant. The law, which was opposed by business groups like the California Fresh Fruit Association and the National Federation of Independent Businesses, carries steep financial penalties of up to \$10,000 for employers who voluntarily allow ICE into their place of business.

Whatever one thinks about immigration policy, this state law clearly thrusts employers into a conflict between the state and federal government. At the very least, the idea that the state can force, under threat of prosecution, business owners to defy federal immigration agents seems like a misplaced effort.

Another law under challenge by the Justice Department is Assembly Bill 103, which directs the state attorney general to inspect immigration detention facilities in California. The law, passed in response to concerns about the treatment of immigrant detainees, who aren't necessarily guilty of any crime, is challenged by the Justice Department as an attempt to regulate federal immigration detention.

While California's concern for immigrant detainees is understandable, and detention should be humane and reasonable, it is easy to see how AB103 oversteps California's authority.

The third law being challenged is Senate Bill 54, the so-called "sanctuary state"

bill which restricts the information state and local law enforcement officials can provide to federal immigration authorities. While the law includes some exceptions for immigrants convicted of certain serious crimes, the Justice Department argues the law "interferes with federal immigration authorities' ability to carry out their responsibilities under federal law."

Here there is likely to be the most significant legal battle.

While SB54 is largely political theater that has done more to make California a target for immigration enforcement than anything else, state and local law enforcement agencies are under no obligation to do the work of the federal government. The federal government should not be able to commandeer state and local police to enforce federal immigration law. But to what extent SB54 or what Sessions would like to see can hold up in court remains to be seen.

The escalation of this political and legal battle between California and the federal government has been inevitable. With millions of undocumented immigrants living in California, and a Congress still unable to put together even the most modest of immigration reforms into place, it is a conflict which is likely to persist for some time.

Cold comfort speaking for ICE San Francisco Chronicle

Citing "false" and "misleading" public statements by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting Director Thomas Homan, the agency's San Francisco spokesman, James Schwab, resigned on Monday.

Schwab told the Chronicle he couldn't continue to do his job, as officials pressured him to deflect media questions by using so-called "alternative facts" about last month's "Keep Safe" raid in Northern California.

What Trump administration officials said, again and again, was that about 800 undocumented immigrants evaded arrest during the operation — thanks to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Schwab alerted the public on Feb. 24 about an upcoming raid. Officials arrested 232 suspected undocumented immigrants during the operation.

Schwab wanted officials to correct the claim of 800 undocumented immigrants evading arrest. He stated that he knew it to be far lower.

"I quit because I didn't want to perpetuate misleading facts," Schwab told The Chronicle. "I asked them to change the information. I told them that the information was wrong, they asked me to deflect, and I didn't agree with that."

Out of a target list of nearly 1,000 undocumented immigrants, Schwab said, the agency would never have been able to cap-

ture all of them — regardless of whether Schaaf warned the public.

Meanwhile, ICE has been backpedaling. The agency now claims it never said it would capture all of the targets. ICE spokeswoman Liz Johnson said: "While we can't put a number on how many targets avoided arrest due to the mayor's warning, it clearly had an impact. While we disagree with Mr. Schwab on this issue, we appreciate his service and wish him well."

Schwab was right to follow his conscience and quit his job. He was also right to insist that a federal agency do its job.

Providing the public with truthful information is a basic responsibility of government — whether the Trump administration likes it or not.

Protectionism's a proven loser Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star

As federal trade policy shifts and wobbles toward a somewhat uncertain endgame, one thing remains crystal clear: Today's smart trade pacts have unquestionably benefited this state and country.

The five Republicans who make up our state's congressional delegation understand this, with Sen. Ben Sasse and Rep. Adrian Smith strongly condemning the implementation of tariffs — most recently, on imported steel and aluminum — and the negative impact those will have on business and consumers alike.

Many columnists on this page have correctly noted that tariffs represent a tax on American consumers, with the duty applied at the border ultimately paid by the end user. They're just bad business and compound the flat-out wrong rhetoric President Donald Trump used last week when saying trade wars are "fun" and "easy to win."

That's a dangerous game to play, one with costs far too great to trifle with.

The history books are littered with cautionary tales of protectionism gone wrong, from the disastrous tariffs instituted during the 19th century to the short-sighted withdrawal from producers both access and sales to Asian markets at a time of already low commodity prices.

The White House seems to focus its attention on trade deficits, an imperfect means of measuring these deals' benefit, as a win-or-lose metric. Even though the truth is that trade is more nuanced than using that as the only yardstick, Nebraska still comes out way ahead, turning a \$2.8 billion trade surplus in 2016.

A prime example of how free trade maximizes efficiencies and improves all participants' lots comes from a readily apparent source in Nebraska — agriculture.

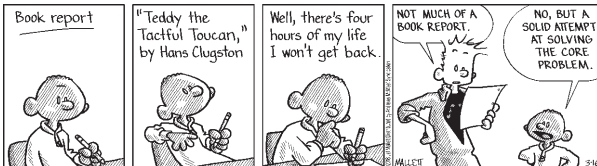
Compared with the U.S., Canada has relatively few farmers, but it produces major farm implements and machinery. Meanwhile, our northern neighbor specializes in the production of young livestock, as a delegation that included Canada's deputy ambassador to the U.S. and its Minneapolis-based consulate general pointed out when meeting with the editorial board.

It's no coincidence that these two fields represent Nebraska's single greatest export to (\$218 million) and greatest import from (\$105 million) Canada in 2016, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Nationally, it's a \$47.2 billion relationship that supports 9 million jobs stateside, including \$2.4 billion and 57,400 jobs in Nebraska.

And Canada was merely Nebraska's second-largest trading partner from 2016, as Mexico and the third partner in the North American Free Trade Agreement and a major consumer of Nebraska agricultural goods — held the top spot that year.

Protectionism, tariffs and other anti-free-market steps threaten the widespread benefits of such agreements, needlessly jeopardizing jobs and industries. Nebraska, and the U.S. as a whole, benefit from free trade agreements.

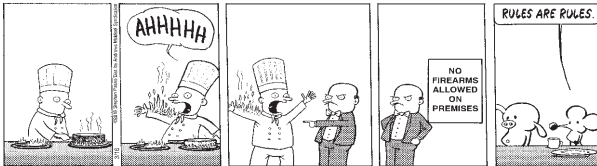
Frazz



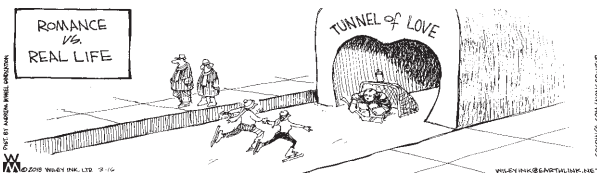
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



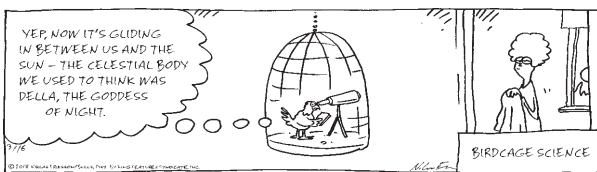
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15										
21	22			23			24			
25				26			27			
29				30			31			
38	39	40					41		42	
44							45			
47							48			
52							53			
55							56			

ACROSS

- 1 Wear
- 6 NASCAR advertiser
- 9 Priestly garment
- 12 Bottled spirit?
- 13 Pint-sized
- 14 — chi
- 15 Vestige
- 16 Just for fun
- 18 Bawdy
- 20 Desire
- 21 "Unh-unh"
- 23 "You bet!"
- 24 Watched surreptitiously
- 25 Yale students
- 27 Dijon darling
- 29 "I thought —"
- 31 Inuit in a 1922 film
- 35 Washbowl
- 37 "Dedicated to the — Love"
- 38 Rough, like burlap
- 41 Gloomy guy
- 43 Toss in
- 44 Medicinal plant
- 45 Was right for
- 47 Out with one's sweetie
- 49 Beethoven's "Für —"
- 52 Wrestling surface
- 53 More (Sp.)
- 54 Put in office

DOWN

- 55 Apr. check casher
- 56 Mil. stores
- 57 Trails
- 22 Gore and Green
- 24 Madrid Mrs.
- 26 Filled in
- 28 Boredom
- 30 Low isle
- 32 Fighting the battle of the bulge
- 33 British ref. work
- 34 Tease
- 36 "Reckon so"
- 38 Campbell or Judd
- 39 Of an arm bone
- 40 Tub toys
- 42 Precipitous
- 45 Classic R&B record label
- 46 Big name in scat
- 48 Sound booster
- 50 Learning ctr.
- 51 Roswell visitors

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	L	A	K	H	U	B	W	E	B	S
L	A	R	A	A	M	I	A	L	O	T
A	M	E	N	I	P	O	I	D	E	A
W	E	A	S	E	L	S	A	V	O	R
			A	D	A	G	E	R		
M	E	A	N	C	O	L	O	R	A	D
I	N	D	A	W	E	D	D			
A	D	O	R	A	B	L	E	H	O	E
		P	E	N		R	O	E		
A	S	T	U	T	E	I	R	I	S	E
G	L	I	B	A	C	E	S	T	U	N
E	A	V	E	R	R	S	T	E	R	I
S	T	E	N	P	O	T	S	P	O	T

3-16

CRYPTOQUIP

SP PRH IHIBGSZSXH HUHVP,

HUHGIJZBCJ ISCH PQYNPYVD

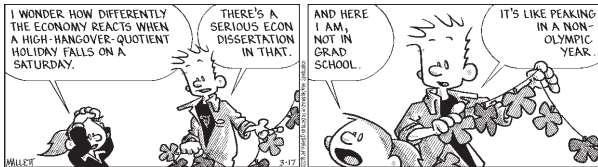
IBUHIHVPN. PRHJ QHGH

QGYPRYVD PB PRH BEESNYBV.

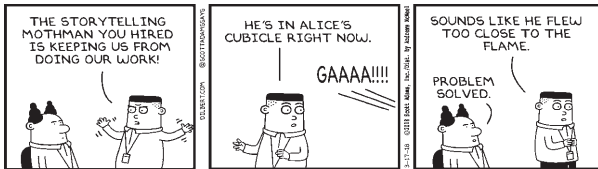
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STANDARD SONG ABOUT A PARTICULARLY URBANE CHURCH CONGREGATION: "SOPHISTICATED LAITY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals W

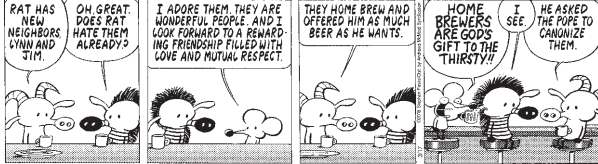
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



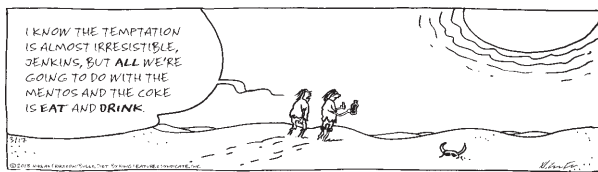
Non Sequitur



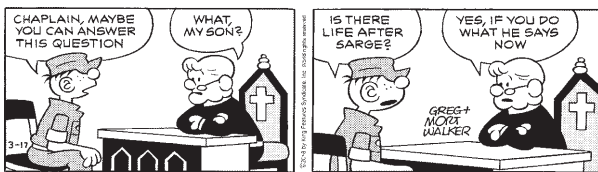
Candorville



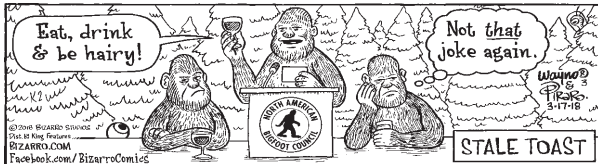
Carpe Diem



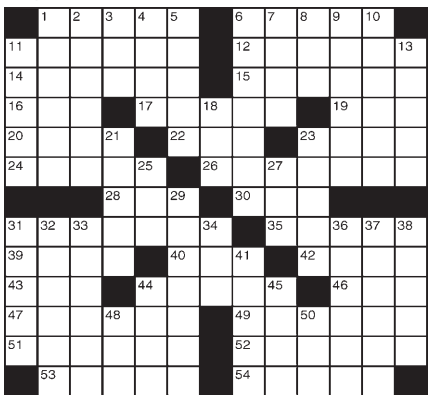
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Two-faced god
- 6 Test versions
- 11 "Hard as nails," for one
- 12 Geological periods
- 14 Eye-related
- 15 Berated, in a way
- 16 Bando of baseball
- 17 Dressed to the —
- 19 Work with
- 20 Iowa city
- 22 Nemesis
- 23 Portal
- 24 Fact
- 26 Erudite person
- 28 "I'm not impressed"
- 30 Smack
- 31 Isolated, as a people
- 35 Hits the mall
- 39 Incubator noise
- 40 D.C. figure
- 42 Diving duck
- 43 Piercing tool
- 44 Trojan War story
- 46 Author Umberto
- 47 Act like a siren
- 49 Willow's kin
- 51 Skier's destinations

DOWN

- 52 Mean
- 53 Jimmy of "NYPD Blue"
- 54 Plane assignments
- 21 Recap
- 23 Certain barbarians
- 25 Singer Tormé
- 27 That fellow's
- 29 Unlucky
- 31 Bridge call
- 32 Banister posts
- 33 Not often
- 34 Marseilles monarch
- 36 Brunch fare
- 37 Praline nuts
- 41 Azure gemstone
- 44 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 45 Finito
- 48 AP rival
- 50 Sch. org

Answer to Previous Puzzle



CRYPTOQUIP

PVOI FVTEL VJAIDZP ZWQZ
WQL JIIE PWQRIL QEL
RQMEZIL ZV NVVU ATPZ
NMUI PZVEIP: PWQO FVDUP.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE MEMORABLE EVENT, EVERYBODY MADE TWISTING MOVEMENTS. THEY WERE WRITING TO THE OCCASION.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals J



Support the mission

When you're serving at a base in Afghanistan or one of the Gulf States, an American newspaper is an important link to home. At an isolated location like that, you can develop a real hunger for world and national news, stories with a military focus... news that really matters to you.

Stars and Stripes delivers thousands of papers a day downrange, seven days a week — and we count on financial support from our subscribers and advertisers to get those papers to our forward deployed forces. Why? Although part of the Department of Defense, Stars and Stripes is editorially independent and maintaining our independence demands that we meet most of our financial obligations through our own commercial activities. That means selling subscriptions and advertising. Your subscription can make a difference. Donating a mail subscription to a VA hospital or clinic can help even more.

Subscribe today: [Stripes.com/digital](https://www.strips.com/digital) or email MemberServices@stripes.com for more information.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Make me mobile — and keep me on top.

I need to know what's going on in the world of the U.S. military — that's why I subscribe to my #1 news source.

Sure, I can access Stripes.com from my desktop. But as often as I'm on the road, I need news that can keep up with me. The iOS app works perfectly on my phone and my tablet — and it's included in the Digital Access subscription for one low price.



STARS AND STRIPES®

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys

178

Transportation

944

UPI2
RECHTSANWÄLTE
FACHANWÄLTE | NOTARE

U.S. & GERMAN ATTORNEYS

US & German Divorces • Support Issues
Wills and Probate • Employment
ECO • MSPB • Personal Injury
Contractor Issues • Tax

CALL 069-299-2069-0
email: maiss@upi2legal.de

Dental

902

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY +49-(0)6134-2592730 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) info@transglobal-logistics.de www.transglobal-logistics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	U.S.A +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgalus www.tgalus
---	---	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

American Doctors & Staff

Services Offered:
Family Dentistry
Certified Orthodontics
Crowns and Veneers
Implant Surgery
Zoom Teeth Whitening
Wisdom Teeth Surgery
Nitrous Oxide
Saturday & Evening Appointments
Caring, Friendly American Staff

LOCATIONS

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 2650
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
WiesbadenDental.com

Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406230
Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

UNITED CONCORDIA

Certified American Dental Hygienists
TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (872-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Want a better picture?

You'll get one - just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.

*In print • Online at stripes.com •
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad*

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

Transportation

944

Interglobal Shipping GmbH

Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada
Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings
Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!
info@interglobalshipping.de
www.interglobalshipping.de

**Ytel (0421) 540-650 Fax: (0421) 540-6505
Tel-Free 0800-000-0311**

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes
gives you a better handle on
issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the
bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES


Mobile • Online • Print

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES. CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast/ Buy fast*

When you see this 
camera icon go to stripes.com
to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE	
Advertising:	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013
Circulation:	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9111 DSN 314,583,9111
Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com

MIDDLE EAST	
Advertising:	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013
Circulation:	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9150 DSN 314,583,9150
Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com

PACIFIC	
Advertising:	Yuko Saito saito.yuko@stripes.com (81-3) 6385,3267 DSN 315,229,3267
Circulation:	Mari Matsumoto sspcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3171 DSN 315,229,3171
Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com

Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam Fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in conducting the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Autos for Sale Germany 142

Auto - Quality Prewowned
US SPEC Vehicles
www.hrblockautosales.com
Free Europe-wide delivery

Dental 902

DENTAL HYGIENIST NEEDED
for new clinic in Landsluth,
Paderborn or full-time. Contact
Landsluth American Dentistry at
(30371) 960-0075 or
info@americandentistry.net.

Travel 1000

****Spring in Garmisch****
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km
N of Garmisch-Hof Idre/Isar
39eur PP. DBL occp. Free breakfast,
dogs welcome. 3882-8-9120
www.forsthaus-oberau.de

Tax Assistance 940

H&R BLOCK®

Germany H&R Block Tax
Offices Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein 06371-8020410	Wiesbaden 06134-256963	Vilseck 01735-736112
---------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Email: eclemons@hrblock.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details.

STARS AND STRIPES.

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concerts, events, TV,
movies, video games,
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES.

Career CENTER

Career Center 1030

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Information Technology

General Dynamics IT is seeking highly qualified intelligence professionals to support the U.S. European Command, providing intelligence analysis and analytic support.

Join Us for an Information Session
Tuesday, 20 March | 1600-1900
The Racehorse in Catworth
Food and drinks will be provided.

You can also participate in our Virtual Job Fair on March 15th.
To learn more visit www.gdit.com/intelanalysisjobs.

Impactful Work. Mission Driven. Meaningful Careers.

Want a better picture?



You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military
news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com •
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases
the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES.

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and in a Tablet Edition for iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES.

Mobile • Online • Print

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFS

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Tennis

BNP Paribas Open

Wednesday
At The Indian Wells Tennis Garden
Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: \$8.5 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Rounds

Men
Fourth Round
Borna Coric, Croatia, def. Taylor Fritz, United States, 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-4.
Chung Hyeon (23), South Korea, def. Pablo Carreno Busta (10), Spain, 6-1, 6-3.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (31), Germany, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Kevin Anderson (7), South Africa, def. Pablo Carreno Busta (11), Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6).
Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 7-5, 6-4.
Nadim, Osaka, Japan, def. Argentina, def. Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Sam Querrey (18), United States, def. Fomay Lopez (28), Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Milos Raonic (32), Canada, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, walkover.

Women
Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Petra Marinkovic (11), Croatia, 6-4, 6-3.
Katerina Makarovic (4), Slovenia, def. Ekaterina Makarovic (4), Slovenia, 6-4, 6-3.
Pliskova (5), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3.
Doubles
John Isner and Jack Sock, United States, def. Sam Querrey and Rajeev Ram (8), United States, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2).

Womens
Quarterfinals
Ekaterina Makarovic (4), Slovenia, def. Ekaterina Makarovic (4), Slovenia, 6-4, 6-3.
Pliskova (5), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3.

Pro baseball

Spring training

Wednesday's games
Boston, N.Y. Yankees 4, Atlanta 5.
Miami, S.F. Giants 3, Houston 1.
St. Louis, Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 1.
Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 7.
Cincinnati, Seattle 5, San Francisco 4.
L.A. Dodgers 11, Colorado 6.

College hockey

Conference tournaments

ATLANTIC HOCKEY CONFERENCE
Seminals
Friday, March 16
At Rochester, N.Y.
Robert Morris vs. Mercyhurst
Air Force vs. Canisius

Championship
Saturday, March 17
Seminifinal winners
BIG TEN CONFERENCE
Saturday, March 17
Ohio State at Notre Dame
ECAC

Seminifinal
Friday, March 16
At Lake Placid, N.Y.
Princeton vs. Cornell
Harvard vs. Clarkson

Saturday, March 17
Seminifinal winners
HOCKEY EAST
Seminifinal
Friday, March 16
At Boston

Championship
Saturday, March 17
Seminifinal winners
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HOCKEY CONFERENCE
Seminifinal
Friday, March 16
At St. Paul, Minn.

Championship
Saturday, March 17
Seminifinal winners
WESTERN COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
Championship
Saturday, March 17
Michigan Tech at Northern Michigan

College basketball

Men's NIT

First Round
Tuesday, March 13
Baylor 80, Wagner 56
Louis 66, Northern Kentucky 58
Middle Tennessee 91, Vermont 64
Western Kentucky 79, Boston College 12
Oklahoma State 80, Florida Gulf Coast 28
Notre Dame 84, Hampton 63
Oregon 99, Rider 86

Wednesday, March 14
Marquette 67, Harvard 60
LSU 84, Louisiana-Lafayette 76
Penn State 63, Temple 57
Mississippi State 66, Nebraska 59
Stanford 86, UC Davis 59
Iowa 68, BYU 63
Washington 77, Boise State 74

Second Round
March 15-19
Stanford (19-15) vs. Oklahoma State (20-14)
Saint Mary's (29-5) vs. Washington (21-12)
Saturday, March 17
Oregon (23-12) at Notre Dame (21-14)
Penn State (23-12) at Georgetown (20-13)
Sunday, March 18
Mississippi State (23-11) at Baylor (19-14)
Middle Tennessee (25-7) at Louisville (21-13)

Monday, March 19
LSU (18-10) at Utah (20-11)
Western Kentucky (25-10) at Southern Cal (24-11)

CBI

First Round
Tuesday, March 13
Utah Valley 87, Eastern Washington 65
Wednesday, March 14
Campbell 87, Miami 78
Philadelphia State 80, Canisius 78
New Orleans 77, Texas Rio Grande Valley 78

Quarterfinals
North Texas 90, South Dakota 77
San Francisco 72, Colgate 68
Mercer 78, Grand Canyon 73
Central Arkansas 92, Seattle 90, UT Valley (23-10) vs. San Francisco (19-15)

Monday, March 19
North Texas (16-17) vs. Mercer (19-14)
Campbell (16-15) vs. New Orleans (16-15)
Central Arkansas (18-15) vs. Jacksonville State (22-12)

CIT

First Round
Monday, March 12
Central Michigan 94, Fort Wayne 89
Drake 80, Abilene Christian 73, OT
Perry 65, NC A&T 52

Second Round
First-Round winner vs. Northern Colorado (22-12)
First-Round winner vs. Sam Houston State (19-14)

Wednesday, March 14
Eastern Michigan 83, Niagara 65
Illinois-Chicago 84, St. Francis (Pa.) 61
UTSA 76, Lamar 69

Thursday, March 15
Louisiana-Monroe (16-15) at Austin Peay (18-14)
Friday, March 16
Central Michigan (20-14) at Wofford (21-12)

NCAA Men's Division II Tournament

At Sioux Falls, S.D.
Quarterfinals
Tuesday, March 20
West Texas A&M (31-3) vs. Le Moyne (27-6)
Queens (35-1) vs. Barry (23-8)
Queens (NC) (31-7) vs. California Baptist (28-5)

Championship
Saturday, March 24
Northern State (34-3) vs. East Stroudsburg (27-5)

NCAA Men's Division III Tournament

Seminifinal
At Salem (Va.) Civic Center
Friday, March 16
Ramapo (25-6) vs. Wisconsin-Oshkosh (24-10)
Nebraska Wesleyan (28-3) vs. Springfield (22-8)

Championship
Saturday, March 17
At Kansas City, Mo.
First Round
Wednesday, March 14
Life 68, William Carey 61
St. Louis Alexander 71, Lewis-Clark State 71
Georgetown (Ky.) 79, Central Baptist 74
Oklahoma City 62, Xavier (N.C.) 61
LSU Shreveport 72, Harris-Stowe 63
Wayland Baptist 68, Central Methodist 57

Peru State 106, The Master's 104, OT
Dillard 74, Westminster 71

Thursday, March 15
Dalton State (24-8) vs. Cumberland (0-0) (21-9)
Montana Western (25-7) vs. Southwestern (25-4) (24-9)
Carroll (Mont.) (27-5) vs. Lindsey Wily (23-8)
Pikesville (24-8) vs. Langston (20-11)
Columbia (Mo.) (27-4) vs. Campbellsville (23-9)
Pikesville (24-8) vs. Wesleyan vs. Graceland (Iowa) (24-10)
William Penn (27-4) vs. Science & Arts (OKLA.) (21-10)
Hope International (25-5) vs. Our Lady of Lake (20-11)

WNIT

First Round
Wednesday, March 14
UCF 65, Jacksonville 60, OT
Saint Joseph's 75, Seton Hall 57
Alabama 69, Southern 56
Thursday, March 15
Houston (20-11) at South Dakota (26-6)
Western Illinois (22-9) at Colorado State (20-11)
Cincinnati (19-12) at Michigan State (17-13)
Saint Mary's (Cal.) (20-10) at New Mexico (23-9) at Rice (22-9)
Lamar (22-7) at TCU (19-12)
Middle Tennessee (20-11) at Louisiana Tech (19-11)
Purdue (18-13) at IUPUI (22-9)
Middle Tennessee (20-11) at Ball State (24-6)
Tulsa Martin (19-14) at Indiana (17-14)
Milwaukee (20-11) at Northern Iowa (19-13)

Second Round
New Mexico State (18-12) at Wyoming (21-13)
Utah Valley (23-10) at UAB (25-6)
Saint Louis (17-15) at Kansas State (16-15)
UTSA (19-11) at Utah (17-13)
Bucknell (22-9) at Westminster (21-11)
Delaware (24-9) at Toledo (16-15)
ETSU (20-12) at James Madison (21-11)
Marist (20-13) at St. John's (16-14)
Missouri State (20-11) at Miami (Ohio) (21-10)
Bethune-Cookman (24-6) at Georgia Tech (20-11)
Chattanooga (17-12) at UAB (26-6)

Friday, March 16
Wright State (23-10) at Toledo (17-14)
Albany (NY) (24-7) at Penn (21-8)
Delaware (24-9) vs. New Orleans (15-15)
Harvard (18-10) at Fordham (22-9)
Robert Morris (25-7) at Drexel (26-7)
Stephen F. Austin (20-11) at Georgia State (23-9)

Navy (25-7) at Virginia Tech (18-13)

WBI

First Round
Wednesday, March 14
Binghamton 70, Youngstown State 59
Fresno State 77, CSU Bakersfield 57
Thursday, March 15
Furman (17-13) at Illinois (17-15)
Missouri State (20-11) at Georgia Tech (20-11)
Stetson (17-14) at Alabama (19-12)
Weber State (20-10) at Texas Southern (19-12)
SIU-Edwardsville (17-14) at Central Arkansas (18-15)
UC Irvine (18-13) at Nevada (17-14)

NCAA Women's Division II Tournament
At Sioux Falls, S.D.
Quarterfinals
Monday, March 19
Indiana (Pa.) (29-3) vs. Central Missouri (27-3)
Stonhill (29-3) vs. Ashland (34-0)
Carson-Newman (32-2) vs. Union (Indiana) (30-1)
Montana State Billings (25-11) vs. Lubbock Christian (31-1)

NCAA Women's Division III Tournament

Seminifinal
At Rochester, Minn.
Friday, March 16
Amherst (31-0) vs. Thomas More (30-1)
Bowdoin (28-2) at Hampshire (31-0)
Championship
Saturday, March 17
Seminifinal winners

NAIA Women's Tournament

At Billings, Mont.
Wednesday, March 14
Benedictine (Ind.) 68, Columbia (Mo.) 59
Menlo Jr. LSU Shreveport 79
Campbellsville (Ky.) 79, Faulkner (Ala.) 63
Montana Western 69, Dillard 61
Free-Hardeman 71, The Master's (Ga.) 61
Central Methodist 98, Arizona Christian 86
Science & Arts (Okla.) 60, Rocky Mountain 52

Thursday, March 15
Our Lady of the Lake vs. Loyola (La.)
Westmont vs. Cumberland (Tenn.)
Midamerica Nazarene vs. Lindenwood-Belleville
Oklahoma City vs. Providence (Mont.)
Wayland Baptist vs. Lyon
Shawnee State vs. Grady-Veale
Carroll (Mont.) vs. William Penn
Vanguard vs. Bethel (Tenn.)

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Dylan Bundy on a one-year contract. Optioned OF Joey Rickard to (N.Y.). Reassigned INF Adam Lejda to their minor league camp.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned OF Luis Basabe to Winston-Salem (Carolina). RHP Ryan Canha and C Zack Collins to minor league camp.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Released INF/OF Adam Lind.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Sent RHP Mike Trout to (L.A.).

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Reassigned LHP Joe Manti to their minor league camp.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Reassigned RHP Ryan Castellani and James Farris to their minor league camp.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Renewed the contracts of L8 Cody Bellinger, SS Corey Seager, OF Chris Taylor and C Austin Barnes. Agreed to terms with 3B Kyle Farmer, OF Andre Torres and Alex Verdugo. RHP Ryan Canha and C Zack Collins to minor league camp.

NEW YORK METS — Optioned RHP Chris Flexen and T.Y. Burrell to their minor league camp. Reassigned INF Peter Alonso and SS David Berra to their minor league camp. Reassigned INF Kevin Cusack and C Zack Collins to minor league camp.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned RHP Seranthony Dominguez to Reading (E.C.).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS — Transferred G John Collins to (MEM). Signed G Antonio Cleveland to a multi-year contract.
SAN ANGELES CLIPPERS — Signed G Sean Kilpatrick to a second 10-day contract.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed G Brian Randle to a 10-day contract. Waived G Xavier Rathan-McCoy.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released S Tyrone Branch.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms with WR Brandon Smith on a three-year contract. Released DE Deion Jones.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Released WR Jeremy Smith. Agreed to terms with WRs John Brown and Ryan Stewart.
ATLANTA BRUINS — Agreed to terms with DE Trent Murphy on a three-year contract. Signed CB Devin McCaffrey to a one-year contract.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Traded CB Daryl Worley to Philadelphia for WR Jeremy Smith. Re-signed DE Willie Young to a one-year contract.
ATLANTA BRUINS — Agreed to terms with QB Deshaun Kizer, 2018 fourth-round pick, and fifth-round pick (No. 138) draft picks.

NEW YORK JETS — Agreed to terms with QB Josh Allen on a two-year contract. Traded LB Todd Davis on a three-year contract to the Cleveland Browns for a 2018 fourth-round pick. Re-signed LB Nick Bellore and CB Nevlin Lawson. Signed CB

Pro soccer

MLS

City	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	0	6	6	1
New York City	2	0	0	6	4	1
New York	1	0	0	3	2	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0	3	2	0
New England	1	0	0	3	2	0
Atlanta United FC	1	0	0	3	2	0
Orlando City	0	1	1	2	3	4
Chicago	0	1	0	0	3	4
San Jose	0	1	0	0	2	2
Toronto FC	0	1	0	0	2	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

City	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	2	0	0	6	6	1
Vancouver	1	0	0	3	2	0
Houston	1	0	0	3	2	0
New York	1	0	0	3	2	0
Philadelphia	1	0	0	3	2	0
New England	1	0	0	3	2	0
Atlanta United FC	1	0	0	3	2	0
Orlando City	0	1	1	2	3	4
Chicago	0	1	0	0	3	4
San Jose	0	1	0	0	2	2
Toronto FC	0	1	0	0	2	2

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Houston at D.C. United
Columbus at Minnesota United
Philadelphia at Montreal
Toronto FC at Montreal
Orlando City at New York City FC
San Jose at Atlanta FC
San Jose at Sporting Kansas City
San Jose at Real Salt Lake
Sunday's games
Seattle at FC Dallas

DeShawn Shined. Released TE Eric Ebron, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed G Andrew Norwell to a three-year contract and WR Dante Moncrief. Re-signed WR Marquise Gooden.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Traded CB Marcus Peters to the Los Angeles Rams for a 2018 fourth-round pick (No. 124) draft pick and a 2019 second-round pick. Signed WR Sam Watkins to a three-year contract and LB Anthony Hitchens Jr. Agreed to terms with TE Terrance Smith and WR DeAndre Thomas.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed TE Virgil Green to a three-year contract. Agreed to terms with 5 Adrian Phillips on a one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Traded LB Alex Carter to the N.Y. Giants for 2018 fourth-round pick (No. 135) and sixth-round pick (No. 176) draft picks. Re-signed CB Nickell Robey-Coleman. Agreed to terms with Denver for undisclosed draft picks. Acquired DE Robert Quinn and a 2018 sixth-round pick for undisclosed draft picks.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Released DT Ndakunguba Suh and TE Julius Cleveland. Traded WR Jarvis Landry to Cleveland for a 2018 fourth-round pick (No. 123) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Acquired DE Robert Quinn and a 2018 sixth-round pick for undisclosed draft picks.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Acquired LB Dontari Poe from Cleveland for a 2018 fourth-round pick (No. 123) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Signed QB Drew Brees to a two-year contract extension.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed CB Teddy Williams and RB Jonathan Stewart.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed LB Avery Williamson and TE Julius Cleveland. Re-signed S Doug Middleton, RB Lawrence Thomas and TE Eric Tomlinson.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Agreed to terms with LB Nigel Bradham on a five-year contract. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released RB Le'Veon Bell. Signed RB Le'Veon Bell to a 2018 fifth-round pick (No. 156) draft pick and a 2019 seventh-round draft pick. Agreed to terms with LB Cory Nelson on a one-year contract.

Pro football

NFL calendar

March 25-28 — Annual league meeting, Orlando, Fla.
April 2-3 — Draft that hired a new head coach after the end of the 2017 regular season may begin off-season workouts.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

Duenas in control of pitches, emotions

Kadena sophomore ace was unaware of first career no-no until after game against Kubasaki

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Usually, a pitcher who completes a no-hit, no-run game in high school baseball might find himself carried on his teammates' shoulders or dogpiled by same in a wild celebration.

Not so after Kadena's cool-asse right-hander Jared Duenas' 2-0 shutout of Kubasaki last Saturday at Kadena's Four Diamonds Complex.

In many ways, it was just another contest between the two longtime Okinawa rivals.

In fact, the sophomore said he didn't know what he'd accomplished until Panthers coach Boe Roberts told him as he walked off the field into the dugout for the last time on a balmy, beautiful afternoon.

"I knew I was doing well, but not that well," Duenas said after his first career no-no. "I didn't know until the end of the game. Coach told me he was surprised. I'd never done that before. It was just like any other game, to me. I wasn't nervous at all."

"He's a tough guy to read; he's not emotional, he doesn't say much," Roberts said.

"Everyone was pretty calm until the end," Dragons coach Randy Toor said.

Duenas faced 24 batters in seven innings, walking one — Shannon Hyde in the second inning — and striking out eight. One other batter, Cade Schaffner, reached on a seventh-inning error. Duenas threw just 71 pitches.

"He just threw a lot of strikes," Toor said. "He just kept getting ahead of batters. He had that nice curve ball working. Anything we did hit, their defense made plays.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena sophomore Jared Duenas threw a no-hit, no-run game Saturday, a 2-0 win over Kubasaki.

A few well-hit balls, but right at people. But that's baseball."

Duenas, who stands 5-foot-7, has only been playing baseball for five years. He sports a lengthy ponytail the same as his father, Keith Sr.

The father pitched in high

school on Guam in the 1990s and has mentored his three sons, Keith Jr., Nate and Jared, on the diamonds both on Guam and in Temecula, Calif., where Jared picked up the game in 2013.

Jared played youth services ball on Okinawa after arriving

on the island during his seventh-grade year, three years ago.

"He taught me all about pitching, how to follow through, different grips on the ball, pickoff moves, how to watch baserunners, things like that," Jared said.

He first learned a two-seam

fastball, followed by a four-seam fastball, a curveball after that, then a changeup.

"He's developing a slider now," said Roberts, the Panthers' head coach the last five seasons after assisting the previous three; he coached Jared's older brothers as well. "He's got that whip action on the mound. He's working on a cutter, too."

His freshman season saw Duenas strike out 33 batters while allowing 14 walks and 24 hits in 25 innings; his ERA was 3.60.

Throughout his freshman season last year and the current campaign, Jared said, he's tried to maintain the same mindset: Don't look too far ahead or worry too much about getting through an entire game, but keep an eye on what's in front of him.

"Just keep going, try to strike them out or get a play on the field, just one batter at a time," Duenas said.

Duenas said he got a very important takeaway from an 8-1 semifinal victory over Seoul American in last year's Far East championships, something that's helped him so far this season.

"I was really nervous at first" during the semifinal, he said. Once the game started, "I just kept my cool, like it was just another game. It helped my confidence. Now I know what to do in a similar situation."

It's not clear whether Duenas will finish out his high school career at Kadena. Wherever he concludes his high school years, Duenas said: "I just want to keep going, go to college and play there."

ornauer.dave@stripes.com
Twitter @ornauer_stripes

Weekend peek

Kubasaki baseball set for marathon weekend

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Nothing like getting a chance to get a preview of teams you'll be facing in the Far East Division I Baseball Tournament by seeing a couple of them early on in the regular season.

That's Kubasaki's and Kinnick's narrative heading into Friday's showdown at 5:30 p.m. at Yokota Park. It's the second of four games scheduled for the Dragons during a busy weekend.

Kubasaki first faces host Yokota at 3 p.m. Friday, followed by Kinnick, then a double-header Saturday at 10 a.m. and noon at four-time defending D-I champion American School In Japan's Mustang Valley.

"It'll be good to see them," Dragons coach Randy Toor said. "We're expecting some good games."

Toor also said he's expecting both the Mustangs and Red Devils to be "tough." ASIJ opened its season by pounding Division II Zama 30-0 on Tuesday, while Kinnick has won twice over D-II foes Perry and Yokota.

"They're always loaded," Toor said of ASIJ. "They've won the last four Far Easts. As far as we know, they're the team to beat again."

That's not to say Kinnick will be a cake-walk, not with experienced batting and pitching hands Terrence Berg, Jonathan Acosta and Kacey Walker to deal with.

"We know Kubasaki is always one of the best teams," Red Devils coach Chad Stark said. "They're well coached, they do everything right baseball-wise, it's always fun to face a quality team."

Walker, in particular, says he's motivated this season, being that this is his senior year at Kinnick, which has never won the D-I title. "We have to win it all. This is our last chance," he said.

Rain is forecast for Friday afternoon, followed by clear skies but cold temperatures on Saturday. "It'll be cold for us," Toor said. "We're not used to that."

Though the spring season actually launched in late February with soccer, softball and baseball games in Japan, this is the first weekend

that all districts will be in action, with Korea baseball and softball and Japan track and field joining the mix.

Among key weekend events is the Perry Cup soccer tournament, hosted by Matthew C. Perry. The seven-team tournament features Yokota and E.J. King as the Samurai's DODEA Japan opposition.

Track and field is the last sport to launch in Japan, and Dan Galvin, coach of host Yokota, said he believes that with a full five weeks to prepare, "the first-meet results might look better than usual."

The meet takes place at Yokota. The DODEA Japan field will include Perry, fielding a track team for the first time since the late 1970s, and all Tokyo-area international schools except for two.

Sunny skies are expected, though the forecast high is just 52 degrees. "We're used to that," Galvin said. "First meet of the season is always pretty raw."

ornauer.dave@stripes.com
Twitter: @ornauer_stripes

Game of the week

Baseball
Kubasaki vs. Kinnick

When — 5:30 p.m. Friday.

Where — Yokota Air Base, Japan. What — First of three inter-district matchups for the Dragons. They face the Red Devils on Friday at Division II Yokota's home park, then play two games Saturday against four-time defending Far East Division I Tournament champion American School In Japan at Mustang Valley.

Players to watch — Kubasaki is led at the plate by Cade Schaffner (.545, 2 extra-base hits, 3 RBIs) and Adam Garlick (.500, 1 triple, 3 RBIs). On the mound, the Dragons are led by Kyle Palmer (1-0, 4 hits, 2 earned runs, 6 walks, 10 strikeouts in 10 innings). The Red Devils got a three-RBI performance Tuesday in a 9-2 win at Yokota from Jonathan Acosta; he got the win in relief last Saturday when Kinnick rallied from a 4-0 deficit to upend defending D-II champion Perry 12-7.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

Raiders begin defense of title

Kaiserslautern sits atop Division I

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Three key matchups in Italy highlight Saturday's opening day of the 2018 DODEA Europe boys soccer season, a light five-match slate featuring two of three European champions in action.

Defending Division I champion Kaiserslautern launches its title defense against Division II visitor Black Forest Academy, while reigning Division II champ Marymount takes an early look at top divisional rival Aviano. Division I hopefuls Vicenza and Naples open up at lower-division opponents American Overseas School of Rome and Florence, respectively, while Wiesbaden's trip to Stuttgart represents the day's only matchup of Division I squads.

Saturday's opening slate represent the first steps towards the European championship tournament, set for May 21-24 in the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

Division I

The Kaiserslautern Raiders enjoyed their long-awaited championship breakthrough last spring on the strength of an idealized roster featuring dynamic attackers, a nearly impenetrable back line of defenders and consistent play in the midfield. The playoff-tested group realized its potential with a triumphant 3-1 defeat of the archrival Ramstein Royals in the Division I European final last May.

While much of that well-con-

structed roster has been lost, the Raiders retain enough talent to make a respectable run at a repeat. Eleven players, including four starters, are back, notably offensive standouts and senior co-captains Tyler Jankowski and Pablo Zorrilla and stalwart senior goalkeeper Enrico Ard. Still, coach Enrique John will need immediate contributions from the team's younger prospects to approach last season's heights.

This year's Ramstein team, as in recent years, lacks a singular offensive superstar and will rely heavily on ball control and tactical discipline. That model, while overwhelmed by Kaiserslautern's superior talent last year, has produced consistent success and figures to again place the Royals on the short list of legitimate large-school contenders. The play of sophomore standouts Anthony Villella and Gavin McMillan will be key to Ramstein's efforts this spring.

Division I's two Italian entries, Vicenza and 2017 semifinalist Naples, won't see divisional competition until they play each other when the season resumes after spring break on April 13. But they'll each be thoroughly tested each week by the country's reservoir of smaller but highly dangerous programs.

While those teams battle for control of the south, 2017 third-place finisher SHAPE and 2016 runner-up Lakenheath fight for their second straight championship last spring, a year after routing AFNORTH 7-0 for the 2016 crown.

SOCCER PREVIEW



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza's Christopher Ortiz, left, slides to challenge Ramstein's Gavin McMillan during the DODEA Europe soccer tournament on May 18m 2017 in Reichenbach, Germany. Ramstein and Vicenza tied the Division I match 1-1 and Ramstein advanced to the semifinals.

Europe play this year. Wiesbaden, built around a solid and experienced defensive unit, could net some early divisional momentum Saturday against Stuttgart and March 30 at Vilseck.

Division II

Rome takes center stage on this opening weekend, with both Marymount and AOSR playing host. If history holds, the city's teams will transplant their dominance to Kaiserslautern when the European tournament arrives in late May.

Marymount has fully resumed its dynasty after its reign was briefly interrupted in a shootout loss to Bahrain in the 2015 European title match. The Royals edged AOSR 3-2 in overtime for their second straight championship last spring, a year after routing AFNORTH 7-0 for the 2016 crown.

Both AOSR and AFNORTH will mount resistance again this spring. AOSR has nine returning starters back, including all-tournament forwards Alessandro Ianni and Tommaso Anticoli, while the Lions will field promising freshman goalie Paul Kohl alongside a proven core of midfielders and forwards.

Among other divisional squads, BFA, Florence and Aviano will see where they stand this weekend. Rota will play a more fleshed-out regular-season schedule this spring, Spangdahlem will look to bounce back from its 2017 struggles and Bahrain will again arrive at the tournament as a potentially impacting unknown quantity.

Division III

The Brussels Brigands were the runaway small-school champions a year ago, chasing an undefeated Division III season with

a 3-0 rout of Ansbach in the European title game.

While the offseason claimed six of that team's starters, the outline of a championship roster remains intact. Aljaz Urbanc is a dominant presence in the midfield, Alejandro Pantalone poses a threat on the wing and Dominick DeFazio is among DODEA Europe's best goalkeepers.

Ansbach will again field a co-ed soccer squad this season, an arrangement that not only saved both the Cougars boys and girls from obsolescence last year but produced an impressive run to the European final. First-team All-European Nick Benson headlines a set of six returning players from last year's runner-up.

Contenders Hohenfels and Sigonella will look to graduate from last year's third-place game into the main event this spring.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

Girls season opens with rematch of last year's title game

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

DODEA Europe girls soccer picks up Saturday where it left off last spring.

The Wiesbaden Warriors visit the Stuttgart Panthers on Saturday as part of the organization's five-match opening-day schedule. The opener, the weekend's only matchup of Division I teams, is a rematch of last season's European championship game, which the Warriors claimed in dramatic shootout fashion.

The light early schedule gives way to a fuller slate March 23-24, the only full-fledged weekend prior to spring break. The regular season's stretch run begins the weekend of April 14, leading up to the European tournament set for May 21-24.



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Bitburg's Emma Passig, left, and Rota's Jasmine Garrison race for the ball during the DODEA Europe Division II semifinals on May 19, 2017 in Reichenbach, Germany.

Division I

The large-school girls field was once firmly under the control of the Stuttgart Panthers and Ramstein Royals. But their vise grip began to slip in 2016, and in 2017 it was broken entirely.

The Wiesbaden Warriors surged to the forefront of Division I girls soccer last spring with a stunning 3-1 regular-season defeat of undefeated and seemingly invincible reigning champion Stuttgart. After tearing through the tournament, the Warriors ended the Panthers' title reign via shootout after a 1-1 tie that ranked among the most competitive European title matches in recent memory.

With the Ramstein-Stuttgart duopoly cracked, Wiesbaden now turns its attention to sustaining

its newfound status among the divisional elite. Head coach Nicole Angel welcomes seven returning starters back to a team filled with proven performers across the field. Senior Missy Thomas and junior goalkeeper Karl Wallace anchor an outstanding Warriors defensive unit, while junior Peggy Sue Mathis ranks among DODEA Europe's most dynamic midfielders.

Stuttgart will look to reclaim its title without most of the big names from its recent two-year title reign. New coach Billy Ratcliff will build around just four returning starters, but has the foundation of a productive attack in senior midfielders Camille Pereira and Maddie Barta and junior wing Emily Smith.

SEE GIRLS ON PAGE 55

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE/NBA

Girls: Ramstein trying to restore power status

FROM PAGE 54

Ramstein, which hasn't reached a European final since 2015 and hasn't won a divisional title since 2014, will look to shore up its own status as a Division I powerhouse this spring. Returning coach Riccardo Buitrago has five incumbent starters and a promising group of newcomers with which to build a resurgent contender.

Naples, meanwhile, has been on the verge of a championship breakthrough since graduating from its Division II dominance in 2015. The Wildcats have lost to the eventual European champion in the elimination round every year since the realignment, including an appearance in the 2016 title game.

Local rival Vicenza, however, will try to usurp Naples' role as Italy's primary contender. The Cougars boast six returning starters and an explosive offense led by midfielders Grace Bello, Hope Bello and Mia Soto.

Division II

The 2017 European champion Bitburg Barons are now the Spangdahlem Sentinels. And that's not the only thing that's different for the defending Division II champs.

Coach Mark Spencer said the Sentinels are "a relatively new team" after a damaging round of PCS moves. That leaves the squad searching for solutions at the positions in the starting lineup.

But Spangdahlem has a firm foundation around which to build a new contender. Senior Amanda Zubovick and junior Emma Pasig are proven performers in the middle of the field; Spencer said the team will be "leaning hard" on that pair's skill and savvy to organize its attack.

The rebuilt and rebranded Sentinels will find plenty of teams anxious to test their resilience as defending champion.

Among the top challengers are

returning runner-up AFNORTH, which welcomes back eight players from last year's finalist; 2017 semifinalists Bahrain and Rota, which made deep tournament runs after brief or non-existent DODEA Europe spring schedules; Aviano, which faltered in the postseason after a 3-1 regular season; Black Forest Academy, the 2016 champion coming off what it hopes was a temporary dip out of contention; and Italian international schools American Overseas School of Rome, Marymount and Florence, all of which have struggled to match the impact of their dominant boys programs.

Division III

The Alconbury Dragons secured a Division III-peat last spring. Now they're poised to extend their dynasty by another season.

Alconbury returns 10 players, including seven starters, from the squad that claimed the school's third straight European title in 2017. Among the returning standouts are senior forwards Isabel Black and Laela Evans, a dynamic striking duo that has proven too much for opposing small-school defenses to handle.

While Alconbury has held the crown for three years running, the Division III pack isn't far behind. Signella has lost the last two European championship matches to the Dragons by one goal on each occasion, including last year's overtime decision, and fields an inexperienced squad this spring after losing seven starters and all of its all-tournament performers.

Brussels, which predated the current Alconbury reign with a 2014 title victory, offers a worthy foil to the champs' stellar front line in senior defender Juliette Mobley.

broomegregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden celebrates its win over Stuttgart during the DODEA Europe Division I championship on May 20, 2017 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The new soccer season begins this weekend.



Sue Oronoki/AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Dejounte Murray loses the ball in front of Thunder guard Josh Huestis last Saturday in Oklahoma City. The Spurs are one game in the loss column behind Oklahoma City, currently the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference, but would be left out of the playoffs if the postseason started today. This will be the first season since 1996-97 where San Antonio won't finish with a winning percentage of at least .600.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	17	.746	—
x-Boston	46	22	.676	4½
Philadelphia	36	30	.545	13½
New York	34	44	.265	26½
Brooklyn	21	47	.309	29½

Southeast Division

Washington	39	30	.565	—
Miami	36	33	.522	3
Charlotte	30	46	.395	9½
Orlando	21	48	.304	18
Atlanta	20	48	.294	18½

Central Division

Indiana	40	28	.588	—
New Orleans	39	28	.582	½
Milwaukee	36	32	.529	4
Detroit	30	37	.448	9½
Chicago	23	44	.343	18½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	53	14	.791	—
New Orleans	39	28	.582	14
San Antonio	38	30	.559	15½
Dallas	22	46	.324	31½
Memphis	18	49	.269	35

Northwest Division

Portland	41	26	.612	—
Oklahoma City	41	29	.586	1½
Minnesota	40	29	.580	2
Utah	38	30	.559	3½
Denver	37	31	.544	4½

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	52	16	.765	—
L.A. Clippers	31	37	.456	21
L.A. Lakers	31	37	.456	21
Sacramento	22	47	.319	30½
Phoenix	19	50	.275	33½

x-clinched playoff spot

Wednesday's games

Orlando 125, Milwaukee 117	
Washington 125, Boston 124, 2OT	
Sacramento 123, Miami 115, OT	
Golden State 117, L.A. Lakers 106	

Thursday's games

Toronto at Indiana	
Charlotte at Atlanta	
Philadelphia at New York	
Chicago at Memphis	
L.A. Clippers at Houston	
New Orleans at San Antonio	
Detroit at Denver	
Phoenix at Utah	
Cleveland at Portland	

Friday's games

Boston at Orlando	
Brooklyn at Philadelphia	
Dallas at Toronto	
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City	
Miami at L.A. Lakers	
Sacramento at Golden State	

Saturday's games

Atlanta at Milwaukee	
Houston at New Orleans	
Indiana at Washington	
Charlotte at New York	
Dallas at Brooklyn	
Cleveland at Chicago	
Denver at Memphis	
Minnesota at San Antonio	
Sacramento at Utah	
Detroit at Portland	
Golden State at Phoenix	

Around the NBA

Spurs in odd spot

San Antonio in danger of missing playoffs

BY TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

This is the worst season for the San Antonio Spurs in the last 21 years.

They're on pace for only 46 wins.

ONLY 46 wins. That's a season fans in other many cities would celebrate wildly. Philadelphia hasn't won 46 games since 2002-03, Minnesota not since 2003-04, Sacramento not since 2004-05. Detroit hasn't had a 46-win season in the last decade. The Knicks have one in the last 17 seasons. Milwaukee reached it once in the last 16 seasons entering this year. Charlotte, once in the last 15 seasons. The Nets, once in the last 12 seasons.

But this is San Antonio, the silver-and-black standard for the league, where winning 55 or 60 games and making a deep playoff run is considered as much of an annual rite as the rodeo and the Texas FolkLife Festival. And even after a blowout win over Orlando on Tuesday night, the Spurs (38-30) are still on the outside of the playoff picture in the Western Conference.

No need to panic just yet. The Spurs are a mere one game in the loss column behind Oklahoma City, which is holding the No. 4 seed right now. Still, this is a most unusual situation for San Antonio.

"Everybody tries to be the best they can by playoff time," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "That'll be our goal too, to be in

the playoffs and be as good as we can possibly be."

Here's how good the Spurs have been for so long: This will be the first season since 1996-97 where San Antonio won't finish with a winning percentage of at least .600.

This has been such a strange year for the Spurs. Kawhi Leonard has barely played because of a leg injury, and the Spurs still aren't sure when he will return to the court — though there are indications it could be very soon. San Antonio has used 23 different starting lineups, none for more than 12 games, most being used for three or fewer.

It'll be an interesting finish. "It might look a little odd," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But we know the Spurs well enough that in these exact type of situations is when they respond the most."

The week ahead

Some of the games to watch over the coming week:

■ **L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, Friday:** Remember when many thought Doc Rivers and the Clippers gave up on this season? No one told them.

■ **Denver at Memphis, Saturday:** The start of a seven-game, 14-day road trip that may decide if the Nuggets are going to the playoffs or not.

■ **Houston at Portland, Tuesday:** If the Warriors falter for some unlikely and unforeseen reason, this may be a preview of the Western finals.

MLB



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Texas Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre walks onto the field prior to a spring training game on Thursday. Of the more than 19,000 players that have appeared in a big-league game, only 156 have played 20 seasons in the majors. Only two current players can reach that mark — Beltre and 44-year-old pitcher Bartolo Colon, below.

Texas teammates Beltre, Colon only players with two decades in majors

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Adrian Beltre is long past going to spring training trying to make the team. The five-time Gold Glove third baseman with more than 3,000 career hits is quite a rarity.

Going into his 21st big-league season, Beltre is one of only two current players who have played at least 20 MLB seasons.

The other is his new teammate with the Texas Rangers, 44-year-old pitcher Bartolo Colon.

"One, they're extremely durable," San Diego Padres pitcher Clayton Richard said. "And two, they have to be super talented, because to have that long of a career, you have to start really early and that means from an early age you're talented enough to play with the best people in the world. So to combine those two things and play that long is one of the most impressive things in professional athletics."

Of the 19,183 players listed by baseball-reference.com as appearing in a big league game, only 156 have played at least 20 seasons. That is about one-thousandth of 1 percent of all players.

Carlos Beltran, like Beltre and Colon, played his 20th season last year. But the 40-year-old outfielder retired after finally being part of a World Series title with the Houston Astros.

Beltran was the 13th player since 2010 to end his career after playing that long, with Beltre and Colon the only others that could before 2020. It will be the fewest 20-year players finishing their careers during a decade since Hall of Fame members Hank Aaron, Brooks Robinson, Willie Mays and Al Kaline were among nine who made their final appearances in the 1970s.

"Well, 20 years is a long time. I think that you know the levels of conditioning and the demands of performance year in and year out just may take a greater toll now than



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

they did in the past," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said. "When you're talking about position players, you're almost exclusively talking about the American League because of the ability to DH. As far as pitchers are concerned, pitchers have a short professional life span anyway. Guys like Bartolo are unique."

Nolan Ryan pitched a record 27 seasons before retiring in 1993, nearly a century after Cap Anson was the only other to play 27 big-league seasons (1871-97). Tommy John pitched 26 seasons from 1963-89, missing all of 1975 after being the first to have ulnar ligament reconstruction in his elbow, the surgery that now bears his name.

The workhorse pitchers were among 44 two-decade players whose final games were in the 1980s or 1990s — 22 in each of those decades. Rickey Henderson, the only modern-era position player to go 25 seasons, was one of 27 players who ended careers of at least 20 seasons in the decade that started the 2000s.

"I can't even fathom playing for 20 years. I feel like I've been pretty fortunate in my career to stay relatively healthy," said Chase Headley, the 33-year-old Padres infielder going into his 12th season. "But I know that it's a challenge now to get ready to play every day, and for somebody to do it twice as long as I have, it blows my mind. I don't really understand or comprehend

how you could do it."

There is the constant mental and physical grind of 162-game regular seasons, after six weeks of spring training and before any potential postseason play.

"I don't think there's a lack of desire by players," said Trevor Hoffman, a reliever who had 601 career saves over 18 seasons and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer. "I think that for the most part, most guys want that jersey ripped off them."

Hoffman pitched his last game only two weeks before his 43rd birthday.

Ichiro Suzuki, the 2001 AL Rookie of the Year and MVP who won a pair of AL batting titles with Seattle, is back with the Mariners on a one-year contract. This will be the 44-year-old outfielder's 18th MLB season after playing nine seasons in Japan.

"I think everybody's goal is to play like that, but just the nature of it is most people kind of, you start fading off, or injuries or something like that stops you, or lack of performance," said Kyle Seager, the 30-year-old Seattle third baseman going into his eighth season.

Players are also making more money now. The average salary is more than \$4 million a season, more than double what it was in 2000.

Ryan, the strikeout king who also threw seven no-hitters, became the first player with a \$1 million annual salary after signing with the Astros as a free agent after the 1979 season. Over his entire career, Ryan made just more than \$25 million in salary. About a dozen players will make that much just this season.

Beltre, who made his MLB debut at age 19 with the Dodgers in June 1998, will turn 39 just 10 days into this season. After last year becoming only the 31st member of the 3,000-hit club, Suzuki was the 30th, Beltre's primary goal now is to finally win a World Series.

By the numbers

156 **3**

Players that played 20 seasons. That's one-thousandth of one percent of 19,183 who have appeared in a game.

Number that reached 20 season this decade. In both the 1980s and 90s, 22 players finished 20-year careers.

SOURCE: baseball-reference.com

"It's a different challenge every year," said Beltre, whose only World Series appearance came in 2011, his first season in Texas. "But it's the same excitement."

Colon went to spring training on a minor league deal with the Rangers, his 11th big league organization. The portly pitcher who turns 45 on May 24 said his motivation is that he still likes being around the game and has always wanted to play a long time.

"I don't throw hard anymore, but the thing that's very important as a pitcher is throw strikes," Colon said through a translator. "I'm a strike thrower. The one thing I do different than before is I put the ball wherever I want."

As a rookie with the White Sox in 2009, Richard was a teammate of Colon's for part of that season.

"I thought he was finishing up," Richard said with a smile. "I thought he was about done, and he was gone for a couple of years and came back and essentially created another career for himself."

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	70	48	18	4	100	257	198
Boston	68	44	16	8	96	232	176
Toronto	70	41	22	7	89	234	202
Florida	67	34	26	7	75	205	212
Montreal	70	26	32	12	64	179	221
Detroit	69	26	32	11	63	180	211
Ottawa	69	25	33	11	61	193	240
Buffalo	69	22	35	12	56	165	224
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	69	39	23	3	85	209	202
Pittsburgh	71	40	26	5	85	232	215
Philadelphia	70	35	24	11	81	205	205
New Jersey	70	36	26	8	80	212	211
Columbus	70	37	28	5	79	193	195
Carolina	70	30	31	11	71	188	215
N.Y. Rangers	71	32	32	7	71	205	227
N.Y. Islanders	69	30	29	10	70	222	245

Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	69	45	14	10	100	225	174
Winnipeg	70	41	19	10	92	230	185
Minnesota	70	39	24	7	85	217	203
Dallas	71	38	26	6	83	205	190
Colorado	69	37	24	9	82	220	203
St. Louis	69	37	27	5	79	191	182
Chicago	70	30	32	8	68	199	207
Pacific Division							
Vegas	70	45	20	9	95	238	195
San Jose	70	38	29	9	85	207	192
Los Angeles	70	38	26	6	82	203	177
Anaheim	71	35	24	12	82	198	183
Calgary	71	35	26	10	80	198	206
Edmonton	70	30	35	5	65	196	226
Vancouver	71	25	37	9	59	183	231
Arizona	69	27	39	11	57	167	222
Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime loss.							

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's games

Boston 4, Carolina 4
Montreal 4, Dallas 5
Ottawa 7, Tampa Bay 4
Nashville 3, Winnipeg 1
Colorado 5, Minnesota 1
Calgary 1, Edmonton 0

Wednesday's games

Toronto 6, Dallas 5
N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT
San Jose 4, Edmonton 3, OT
New Jersey 6, Vegas 3
Anaheim 5, Vancouver 0

Thursday's games

Washington at N.Y. Islanders
Columbus at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Montreal
Boston at Chicago
Chicago at St. Louis
Detroit at Los Angeles
Nashville at Arizona

Friday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Detroit at Anaheim
Nashville at Colorado
San Jose at Calgary
Boston at Vegas

Saturday's games

Chicago at Buffalo
Edmonton at Florida
New Jersey at Los Angeles
Montreal at Toronto
Philadelphia at Carolina
Ottawa at Columbus
Boston at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
Minnesota at Arizona
San Jose at Vancouver

Sunday's games

Detroit at Colorado
Calgary at Vegas
Edmonton at Tampa Bay
Carolina at N.Y. Islanders
Washington at Philadelphia
Dallas at Winnipeg
St. Louis at Chicago
New Jersey at Anaheim

Leaders

Goal scoring

Name, Team	GP	G
Alex Ovechkin, Washington	69	42
Patrick Kane, Winnipeg	70	41
Evgeni Malkin, Pittsburgh	67	39
Tyler Seguin, Dallas	71	37
Eric Staal, Minnesota	70	37
William Karlsson, Vegas	68	34
Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay	69	33
Anders Lee, N.Y. Islanders	69	33
Jonathan Marchessault, Colorado	61	33
Connor McDavid, Edmonton	70	33
Taylor Hall, New Jersey	65	31
John Tavares, N.Y. Islanders	69	31
Brad Marchand, Boston	54	30
Sean Monahan, Calgary	70	30
Richard Rakell, Anaheim	66	30
Brock Boeser, Vancouver	62	29
Sean Couturier, Philadelphia	70	29

Plus/Minus

Name, Team	GP	+/-
William Karlsson, Vegas	70	38
Brad Marchand, Boston	54	33
Riley Smith, Vegas	66	32
Jonathan Gougeon, Tampa Bay	60	29
Jonathan Marchessault, Vegas	67	29
Patrick Kane, Dallas	67	27
Patrice Bergeron, Boston	55	26
Zdeno Chara, Boston	68	26
Sean Couturier, Philadelphia	70	26
Victor Hedman, Tampa Bay	65	26
Charlie McAvoy, Boston	69	26
Josh Mansson, Anaheim	71	25
Matt Grzelcyk, Boston	48	23
Auston Matthews, Toronto	53	23
David Gustafsson, Minnesota	68	23
Dustin Brown, Los Angeles	69	22
Radek Faksa, Dallas	68	22

Contenders deep down middle

Depth at center a growing factor in team success

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

A linesman orders Sean Couturier out of the faceoff circle and Claude Giroux shrugs before stepping in and winning the draw.

Two centers on the ice at once is a nice luxury for the Philadelphia Flyers to have.

"He's one of the best in the league at faceoffs," Couturier said of Giroux, who ranks third in the NHL. "When you start with the puck, it's a huge part of the game."

Beyond just controlling faceoffs, having depth at center is a growing factor for success in the NHL. Contenders like the Flyers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Nashville Predators, Winnipeg Jets and two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins all boast depth down the middle and are spreading centers all over the lineup.

The flexibility gives teams potentially game-altering matchups with the playoffs coming up in a month.

"You can never have enough center-ice men on your team for lots of reasons," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said.

Crucial faceoffs, injuries and defensive-zone coverage are many of the reasons to load up on centers who can almost always shift to wing and not miss a beat. Philadelphia has long followed the model of drafting and acquiring centers and moving them around, and now has nine natural centers on its roster.

The Penguins won the 2009 Stanley Cup going with Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Jordan Staal and Max Talbot down the middle and captured it the past two years with Crosby, Malkin, Nick Bonino and Matt Cullen. The free agent departures of Bonino and Cullen left a void that Pittsburgh filled by trading for Derick Brassard and Riley Sheahan to again look like a championship contender.

"To have the depth that we have at this point at the center-ice position is I think an important aspect of our overall game," Sullivan said. "We didn't have that coming into training camp. I think our general manager, Jim (Rutherford), has worked extremely hard at making sure that he gave us what has become now I think a strength of our team."

It's also a strength of the Eastern Conference-leading Lightning, who are overflowing with center options beyond Steven Stamkos, Alex Killorn and trade-deadline pickup J.T. Miller. The Toronto Maple Leafs also roll deep with forwards who play cen-



JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

The Sabres' Ryan O'Reilly, right, and the Philadelphia Flyers' Claude Giroux face off during a game in Buffalo, N.Y. Giroux, a natural center playing on the wing, is one of the best in the league at faceoffs, and can step in and take the draw if center Sean Couturier gets tossed out of the faceoff circle.

ter or have in the past, including Patrick Marleau and recent acquisition Tomas Plekanec.

"I can get a can't-miss matchup," Toronto coach Mike Babcock said. "You're not scared of any matchup as time goes on."

It's all about the matchups in the arms race that is the absurd Central Division. It wasn't good enough that the Central-leading

Predators had Ryan Johansen, signed Bonino last summer and traded for Kyle Turris in November; they welcomed center Mike Fisher back from retirement and still have Colton Sissons and Craig Smith.

The Jets acquired center Paul Stastny from the St. Louis Blues to add to an already forward-heavy roster. It paid immedi-

ate dividends with Patrik Laine extending his point streak to 13 games and Winnipeg cruising along after Mark Scheifele went down with an injury.

"We'll be putting two centers out there for D-zone draws and whatnot," said Andrew Copp, who thinks Winnipeg's center depth stacks up with the best in the league. "That's really important, and then just depth with injuries. ... Now we've got six, seven, eight guys that we can really lean on."

It's an increasingly popular strategy. The Flyers are vying for the league lead in faceoffs, handling the early season crack-down on faceoff violations and compensating for a young, mostly unproven defense with versatile forwards.

"Being strong up the middle is important," coach Dave Hakstol said. "That's the backbone of every line, so to have guys that are comfortable in that spot I think is important. Playing down low in your zone — there's so much switching and interchanging that goes on from the wing to that down-low position in coverage, having somebody that's comfortable being down there I think is a benefit, as well."

Having extra centers is a substantial benefit — if they can handle the position change. Winnipeg captain Blake Wheeler made a rapid adjustment from wing to center amid injuries, but just about everyone agrees it's much easier to go the other way.

"There's a real quick adjustment to going from center to the wing: figure out how to work the walls and find your point men," Jets coach Paul Maurice said. "That's a very difficult change."



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay is one of the deepest teams in the league at center, overflowing with center options beyond Steven Stamkos, above, Alex Killorn and trade-deadline pickup J.T. Miller.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

South Carolina forward A'ja Wilson celebrates after her team defeated Mississippi State in the Southeastern Conference tournament championship. The 6-foot-5 senior became the first three-time SEC player of the year and leading national player of the year candidate set South Carolina's career scoring mark while mentoring the next generation of Gamecocks.

Wilson thrives as SC leader

Senior rises to challenge as defending champion's ambassador

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina forward A'ja Wilson is perhaps standing taller than ever after a season in which and the defending national champions struggled.

The 6-foot-5 senior became the first three-time Southeastern Conference player of the year and set South Carolina's career scoring mark while mentoring the next group of Gamecocks and thriving as the best women's college basketball player.

Wilson, who was the No. 1 high school recruit, is a leading candidate to be named national player of the year.

"She has embraced her ambassadorship," college basketball analyst Debbie Antonelli said.

At some point over the next few weeks, Wilson's impressive college journey will end. She and the Gamecocks are seeded No. 2 in the Albany Regional. They'll open Friday night at home against No. 15 seed North Carolina A&T.

South Carolina coach Dawn Staley knows the emotions will flow as Wilson's time in Columbia winds down.

"When a player has had that kind of impact on you personally and this program, you get a little emotional because you may not get another player like that ever," Staley said.

Staley fought like crazy four years ago to keep Wilson, who lived about a half-hour from campus in Hopkins, close to home. She had to fend off the likes of UConn and Tennessee.

Wilson knew as a high school senior she wanted the challenge of helping South Carolina's rising program achieve milestones it had not before, one she saw fulfilled amid the confetti and cheers after winning the national championship in Dallas last April.

Within days, the several starters on that team were gone. Alaina Coates was a senior and juniors Kaela Davis and Allisha Gray gave up their eligibility for the WNBA. Wilson's role instantly changed into a teacher as well as main threat on the court.

"Shifting gears is never a hard thing for me," Wilson said. "I love to put myself in those situations because that's how I grow."

Not that it's been easy. Wilson fouled out in a loss at Missouri when the Tigers made it their focus to physically challenge South Carolina's top player. A sprained ankle late against Auburn led her to miss a home loss to Tennessee in January. Vertigo kept her from the return game last

month and the Gamecocks lost once more.

There were demoralizing defeats against the game's best, 83-58 to No. 1 UConn and a few days later, to then No. 2 Mississippi State, 67-53, where Wilson was just 14-for-38 shooting in the two games.

Wilson's father, Roscoe Wilson Jr., said it's difficult for his daughter to handle when she believes she's letting down teammates. A'ja Wilson may have smiled broadly when using a scooter to get around on her bad ankle, but she was angry and frustrated about missing critical contests.

"It's who she is," Roscoe Wilson said. "She's all about helping her teammates."

The struggles seemed to vanish earlier this month when Wilson, the conference tournament's MVP, led the Gamecocks to a 62-51 championship win over previously unbeaten Mississippi State for a fourth straight SEC Tournament title — a first for any league team. Wilson celebrated with exuberance, enjoying this crown perhaps more than the others.

"To never lose a game in the SEC Tournament is something rare. It's a blessing and an honor," she said. "For us to do what we did, especially with people doubting us, it's a great feeling."

Point guard Tyshia Harris said Wilson has given more of herself this season to help lead South Carolina's young lineup this year. Wilson has expanded her game on the court as well, bringing the ball up more after rebounds. She's also the leader in goftness among teammates in locker rooms, bus rides, plane flights and postgame media sessions.

When giving out her Instagram address after the SEC Tournament championship game, a laughing Wilson made sure to note, "It's A-j-a, not A-s-a."

There are few fans of the women's game who don't know Wilson's accomplishments. Bill Laimbeer, general manager and coach of the relocated WNBA Las Vegas franchise, has attended Wilson's games armed with the No. 1 pick in next month's draft.

Wilson, who led the SEC in scoring (22.6 point average) and blocks (3.2 a game) and was third in rebounding (11.2 per game), is ready to stretch her wing span for the pros.

First, though, there's one last tournament to finish. Wilson understands the Gamecocks, in the same region as top-seeded UConn, won't get much back to toppled the undefeated, No. 1 Huskies.

"Everyone says you play UConn, it's a dead end," Wilson said. "But at the same time, it's not impossible."

With Mabrey on point, Irish on top

By JOHN FINERAN
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — When the season became a numbers game for Notre Dame, coach Muffet McGraw decided to turn Marina Mabrey into a point guard.

Mabrey, the 5-foot-11 junior shooting guard, was a little apprehensive taking over at the point. But McGraw, Mabrey and Notre Dame really had no choice after losing two point guards and two other players over nine months to knee injuries that required season-ending surgeries.

"As a two, you're thinking about scoring," Mabrey said after Notre Dame (29-3) received one of the four top seeds in this year's NCAA Tournament. "Now I feel like I have to put myself second and think, 'OK, what does our team need?'"

A point guard herself at St. Joseph in the 1970s, McGraw had few options to consider on the plane ride home from a 96-73 victory at Wake Forest on the last day of 2017. Point guard Lili Thompson, a graduate transfer from Stanford, had hours earlier gone down in a heap with the team's fourth season-ending injury, joining senior point guard Mychal Johnson, All-America senior forward Brianna Turner and promising freshman forward Mykala Vaughn on a bench now down to seven scholarship and three walk-on players.

"Any time you ask a scorer to step out of their role and play point, which is a job where you have to think about everybody else and not yourself, you wonder," McGraw recalled. "Marina was really, really willing to do that."

It wasn't a total stretch for McGraw, who gave Mabrey some time at the position last season behind senior Lindsay Allen, who was back up her first three seasons by Mabrey's older sister, Michaela, a senior when Marina arrived on campus in 2015.

"Marina had a little bit of experience but not much," McGraw said. "Michaela was naturally a point guard. She looked to pass first. It was easy for Michaela to play the point. It's been an adjust-

ment for Marina, but she's handled it well."

There was a hiccup three games after Mabrey made the move when then-No. 2 Notre Dame was routed 100-67 at No. 3 Louisville on Jan. 11. A 14-game winning streak followed that allowed the Fighting Irish to share a fifth straight Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title with Louisville. The Cardinals again prevailed in the ACC Tournament championship game, 74-72.

That's a 16-2 run to the NCAA Tournament for the Irish with Mabrey at point. During those 18 games, the native of Belmar, New Jersey, totaled seven games of 20 or more points, had seven games of five or more rebounds, dished out seven or more assists on seven occasions and had at least five steals five times.

Next up is the NCAA tourney opener at home on Friday against Cal State Northridge (19-15).

Many have provided Mabrey an ear as she has sought to find her comfort zone. Thompson and Johnson have guided her every day as have McGraw and associate head coach Niele Ivey, who played the point on McGraw's 2001 national championship team. Allen still keeps in touch, and, of course, there's older sister Michaela, now an assistant coach at Miami (Ohio).

"Michaela told me, 'Take what they give you. You're a great scorer so don't let go of that. Find a balance,'" Marina said. "I think I'm starting to find the balance."

Ivey believes Mabrey has been in a season during which she has averaged 14.2 points (down from 14.6 a year ago), 4.6 rebounds (up from 3.0), 4.3 assists (up from 2.4) and 1.9 steals (up from 1.5).

"I knew with the ball being in her hands that she would be the hardest worker," Ivey said. "Marina is a competitor. She wants to win. She's going to do whatever it takes to win. She's going to run through a wall for this team."

Before she does that, Marina Mabrey might want to talk to her coach and teammates, who have seen enough crutches and bandages this season.



ROBERT FRANKLIN/AP

Notre Dame's Marina Mabrey, left, drives in next to North Carolina State's Kai Crutchfield last month. Mabrey, a 5-foot-11 junior shooting guard, was forced to take over at point guard after season-ending injuries to other Irish players.

NCAA TOURNAMENT



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Baylor's Dekeiya Cohen, left, Didi Richards, center, Kalani Brown, second from right, and Alexis Morris listen as head coach Kim Mulkey speaks during a timeout. While so much is the same as usual in March for the Lady Bears, the team has had to deal with unprecedented heartache off the court.

Baylor returns to tournament after heart-wrenching season

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Another 30-win season, another Big 12 championship and another NCAA Tournament opener at home for No. 2 Baylor.

While so much is the same as usual in March for the Lady Bears, this has been the most heart-wrenching season off the court for coach Kim Mulkey.

"I've shed more tears with this team than any team I've ever shed, because that's their personality," Mulkey said. "We have to address the things that pop up in order for them to move on, and it's just been one after another. And I don't know that any of us have had time to really take a breath."

The Lady Bears have gone through the loss of Mulkey's first grandchild, the death of a former championship-winning player to cancer and other real-life issues off the court that athletes, like all college kids, sometimes face when away from home. There have also been season-ending injuries.

Through it all, the Lady Bears (31-1) swept through Big 12 play for their eighth straight regular-season title, then won their eighth conference tournament the last 10 seasons. They open NCAA play at home for the sixth year in a row Friday night as the No. 2 seed in the Lexington Regional against Grambling

State (19-13).

Only a week into the season, Mulkey's daughter, Makenzie Fuller, a former Lady Bears player now on her mother's staff, lost her unborn child about 18 weeks into her pregnancy. The baby with two life-threatening birth defects had no heartbeat when Fuller went to a doctor's appointment, and the baby girl was delivered after labor was induced.

In January, former Baylor player Chameka Scott died of colon cancer at age 33. Scott was one of Mulkey's first recruits and the player the coach called "the heartbeat" of their 2005 national championship team.

"You don't put on a stern face when you deal with death. You address it, you cry, you talk about it," said Mulkey, in her 18th season at Baylor.

Baylor goes into the NCAA Tournament without senior guard Kristy Wallace, who returned home to Australia to have the national team doctors there examine the torn right ACL she sustained in the final regular-season game. Freshman guard Trinity Oliver tore her left ACL a month into the season. "When you have a team that has that kind of chemistry and that kind of camaraderie, you count your blessings," she said. "Because you can coach a lifetime and never have kids like that."

Rumor mill puts coaches, teams in awkward spot

BY WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Danny Hurley doesn't want to make it about himself.

And yet Hurley has been around the game all his life. He knows how these things go. A young(ish) coach with a pedigree and a track record of success gets it going at one level of college basketball, and soon the next level comes calling offering more money, more exposure, more resources and well, did we mention the money?

It happened to Hurley at Wagner. It took him all of two years to turn around the Seahawks, a makeover that landed him the job at Rhode Island in the spring of 2012.

Six years later, the rebuilding project Hurley envisioned when he took over the Rams is complete. Rhode Island (25-7) is in the NCAA Tournament for a second straight season for only the second time in school history and the seventh seed in the East Region heading into Thursday's showdown with 10th-seeded Oklahoma.

The Rams are deep, talented and hard-working. And their coach is in demand, perhaps nowhere more so than in Pittsburgh, where the Panthers are looking for someone to replace Kevin Stallings, let alone coach after an 8-24 season that included an 0-18 payroll in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Hurley's name has been floated out there as a potential replacement. Whether it's true or not doesn't really matter. He hears it. And he knows his players hear it.

"It's something, social media age, for me to sit up here and say I have no awareness would be, you know, it wouldn't be truthful," Hurley said.

Call it a symptom of the trickle-down economics of March Madness. Each year a handful of coaches in smaller leagues get it going. And every year the schools they work for gird themselves for the inevitable run that will be made at them by more traditional powers.

"I'm at 100 percent (there's anxiety)," said Iona athletic director Rick Cole Jr.

And with good reason. The list of coaches who built their reputations at Iona (20-13) and used it as a springboard to higher-profile gigs includes Jim Valvano, Pat Kennedy and Kevin Willard. So far, Tim Cluess has remained. Partly because, hey, there are worse places to be than in the NCAAAs as a No. 15 seed in the Midwest against second-seeded Duke (26-7), where Cluess and the Gaels found themselves Thursday.

"I've had a couple of opportunities where people have called me and I really haven't expressed much interest in it," Cluess said. "It wasn't something that I thought would be that the right fit for my family at the time. I'm thrilled to be at Iona and we're just trying to get better there."

Cluess, however, is in a different spot in his career than Hur-



KEITH SRANKOIC/AP

Rhode Island head coach Dan Hurley has had his name floated as a potential replacement for Kevin Stallings at Pittsburgh.

ley. He's 59. He's from the area. He's had his program at the top of the MAAC for the better part of a decade and he's stuck around. Even his boss acknowledges that's atypical.

"He's 110 percent where he's at," Cole said. "There's nothing going on here. Lot of folks in a lot of industries are always looking."

Folks like, say, Hurley's older brother Bobby. The Duke great served as an assistant for his younger brother for two years and parlayed that into the head job at Buffalo. A pair of American East titles and an NCAA Tournament berth later, Bobby moved on to Arizona State and led the Sun Devils this season before falling to Syracuse on Wednesday night in the First Four.

Bobby Hurley actually finds himself out of the tournament ahead of his old squad. Buffalo and coach Nate Oats — who was elevated from assistant to head coach after Hurley's departure — is the 13th seed in the South Region and will play fourth-seeded Arizona on Thursday.

Oats is 43. He's averaged 21 wins in three seasons. He makes \$355,000, hardly chump change — unless you compare it to the bigger paydays that he elsewhere. And yes, his players have noticed.

"When a coach is rising, you've always got to have that in the back of your mind," Bulls guard Wes Clark said. "It's a business."

Any time Oats finds his name surface in a coaching search, he makes it a point to tell his players immediately. So far, there hasn't been much to say. That could change as the years pass. It has at Rhode Island, where the program that went 8-21 in Danny Hurley's first season has won at least 23 games in three of the last four.

It hasn't gone unnoticed. Yet Hurley has stayed — so far. It's only going to get harder.

Hurley redirected all praise to his players, the ones who he believes have done the heavy lifting.

"Their efforts have made me, you know, I guess attractive to other schools," Hurley said.

And the dance continues.

Scoreboard

Women's NCAA Tournament

ALBANY REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 16 At Columbia, S.C. California (21-10) vs. Virginia (18-13) South Carolina (26-6) vs. N.C. A&T (23-8)	South Dakota State (26-6) vs. Villanova (22-8) At College Station, Texas DePaul (26-7) vs. Oklahoma (16-14) Texas A&M (24-9) vs. Drake (26-7) At Eugene, Ore. Green Bay (29-3) vs. Minnesota (23-8) Oregon (30-4) vs. Seattle (18-14)	At Los Angeles UCLA (24-7) vs. American (26-6) Iowa (24-7) vs. Creighton (18-12) At Austin, Texas Marquette (23-9) vs. Dayton (23-6) Arizona State (21-12) vs. Nebraska (21-10) Texas (26-6) vs. Maine (23-9)
Saturday, March 17 At Storrs, Conn. UConn (32-0) vs. Saint Francis (Pa.) (24-9) Miami (21-10) vs. Quinnipiac (27-5) At Athens, Ga. Duke (22-8) vs. Belmont (31-3) At Tallahassee, Fla. Georgia (25-6) vs. Mercer (30-2) Florida St. (25-6) vs. Little Rock (22-9) South Florida (26-7) vs. Buffalo (27-5)	Saturday, March 17 At Columbus, Ohio LSU (19-9) vs. Central Michigan (28-4) Ohio State (27-6) vs. George Washington (19-13) KANSAS CITY REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 16 At Raleigh, N.C. Maryland (25-7) vs. Princeton (24-5) NC State (24-8) vs. Elon (15-7) Saturday, March 17 At Starkville, Miss. Syracuse (22-8) vs. Oklahoma State (20-10) Mississippi State (32-1) vs. Nicholls (19-13)	At Waco, Texas First Round Friday, March 16 At Louisville, Ky. Louisville (32-2) vs. Boise State (23-9) Marquette (23-9) vs. Dayton (23-6) At Knoxville, Tenn. Oregon State (23-7) vs. Western Kentucky (24-9) Tennessee (24-9) vs. Liberty (24-9) Michigan (22-9) vs. Northern Colorado (26-6) Baylor (31-1) vs. Grambling State (19-13)
SPOKANE REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 16 At Notre Dame, Ind. Notre Dame (29-3) vs. Saint Northridge (19-15)	Saturday, March 17 At Stanford, Calif. Missouri (24-7) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (30-4) Stanford (22-10) vs. Gonzaga (27-5)	

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Michigan St. needs Bridges to be mean

Izzo says Spartans' star can be too unselfish

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Miles Bridges can soar for slams, dribble to set up shots and make three-pointers from all angles.

He can also drift, defer and drive his coach crazy.

Michigan State's Tom Izzo has been privately and publicly prodding Bridges to do more with the ball, going as far as saying he needs to be more of a jerk on the court and more selfish.

"As we keep saying to him all year long, 'Just be more aggressive,'" Izzo said Tuesday.

Bridges, though, pushes back at times. "I can't do it without my teammates," he said softly.

The third-seeded Spartans will need Bridges to play like a star at times in the NCAA Tournament to improve their chances of chasing the school's third national championship. His first opportunity is Friday night against 14th-seeded Bucknell in Detroit. And the 6-foot-7 forward knows it.

"I definitely don't want to go home after all the work we put in," Bridges said. "I'm going to have to take over games."

Bridges didn't take his first opportunity to make millions in the NBA after his freshman season, choosing to chase a priceless championship in college.

"This is the top opportunity that I wanted when I came back," he said. "I wanted to win a national championship. Now that it's here, I'm just going to have to play. I can't talk anymore. I have to go out there and win it."

When Bridges scores a few more points than his average, the Spartans win.

He scored 20 points 11 times this season, and helped his team win each of those

games as part of the school-record 28 victories in the regular season.

The All-Big Ten and preseason All-America player leads the team with nearly 17 points per game, ranks second with almost seven rebounds and is third with just under three assists. He led the Spartans to their first Big Ten outright championship since 2009 as one of four players in the nation with his averages in points, rebounds and assists along with almost one block per game.

Bridges averaged 20 points and eight-plus rebounds in two NCAA Tournament games last year on a team without much experience, depth or size that beat Miami by 20 points and lost to Kansas by 20.

Less than a month later, Bridges did what few potential lottery picks do and stayed in college.

"I got some unfinished business here," Bridges said last year at the foot of the school's Sparty statue. "I want to stay."

The signature moment of this season, so far at least, was making a game-winning three-pointer in the final seconds against Purdue.

"I just wanted to make memories with my teammates and that's what I've done this year," he said.

The low point for Bridges was being briefly ineligible, two days before the final game of the regular season at Wisconsin. Earlier that week, Yahoo! Sports published expense reports listing a \$70 lunch with Bridges' parents and a \$400 cash advance to his mother. The school denied the allegations in the report, but later announced its compliance office discovered an NCAA violation because Bridges' family had dinner with an agent last winter without his knowledge. That finding made the sophomore star ineligible for about a day before the NCAA reinstated him. Bridges had to



Al Golots/AP

Michigan State's Miles Bridges, top, dunks against Purdue on Feb. 10 in East Lansing, Mich. Bridges turned down his first chance to make millions in the NBA to chase a national championship, choosing to stay for his sophomore season.

donate \$40 to a charity of his choice as a condition of the reinstatement process.

"No great story comes without trials and tribulations," Bridges said.

Bridges and his teammates had a chance to clear their minds and relax their bodies last week, idling between the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments. They went to see

"Hamilton" in Chicago, practiced at the Bulls' facility and saw the NBA team play.

"Everybody, like our seniors, starts thinking the end is near so you have to deal with all those things," Izzo said. "In Miles' case, who knows when the end will be? But I think he's handled everything pretty well."

FSU's Mann receives extra off-court guidance

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — When Florida State junior Terence Mann calls home after games, the conversation with his mother is slightly different than for most college athletes.

Sure, Daynia La-Force asks her son about his grades, whether he is eating right and the other normal parental inquiries. But Mann also gets a breakdown of his performance with his mother pointing out his strengths and weaknesses.

That's because La-Force is the women's basketball coach at Rhode Island.

"She's good at balancing it," Mann said. "She knows when I need the coach and knows when I need the mom."

Despite being over 1,200 miles apart and having her own demands driving a Division I pro-



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Rhode Island women's basketball coach Daynia La-Force, right, gives plenty of instruction to her son, Florida State's Terence Mann, left, when the two speak after one of his games.

gram, La-Force rarely misses Mann's games and stays ready

to give him an assessment. La-Force said she always starts off

the conversation asking her son how he's doing before diving into the coaching conversations.

"He listens to me and understands my perspective. I see the sets and what is supposed to happen," she said. "When it is your son not making those plays it is kind of tough."

The talks have paid off for Mann.

He has become one of the team leaders after three starters off last year's squad left for the NBA.

The 6-foot-6 guard was honorable mention All-Atlantic Coast Conference after leading the Seminoles in scoring and rebounding. He also helped Florida State to consecutive NCAA Tournament bids for the first time in six years.

The ninth-seeded Seminoles (20-11) open tournament play on Friday against eighth-seeded Missouri (20-12) in the West second round in Nashville.

Mann has been one of Florida State's best defensive players throughout his career, but has shown the most improvement on offense this season. He is averaging 13.2 points per game, which is nearly five points better than last season, and has made 55.8 percent of his shots.

He has six games of 20 or more points, including a career-high 30 in a Jan. 24 win over Georgia Tech. But he struggled in consecutive losses to Virginia and Notre Dame last month, prompting La-Force to tell him he needed to show more versatility in his shooting. She noticed Mann was relying too much on cutting right and driving to the basket.

"He still values being the glue guy and making the extra play," she said. "I want him to fall in love with being more aggressive."

"He's always been a skilled player who can shoot from inside or outside."

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Scoreboard

FIRST FOUR
Tuesday, March 13
 Radford 71, LIU Brooklyn 61
 St. Bonaventure 65, UCLA 58
Wednesday, March 14
 Texas Southern 64, N.C. Central 46
 Syracuse 60, Arizona State 56
EAST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Pittsburgh
 Villanova (30-4) vs. Radford (23-12)
 Virginia Tech (21-11) vs. Alabama (19-13)
At Dallas
 Texas Tech (24-9) vs. Stephen F. Austin (28-6)
 Florida (20-12) vs. St. Bonaventure (26-7)
AFN-Sports: Friday 11 a.m. JKT
Friday, March 16
At Detroit
 Purdue (28-6) vs. Cal State Fullerton (20-11) **AFN-Pac-12: Friday 5:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 1:30 a.m. JKT**
 Arkansas (23-11) vs. Butler (20-13) **AFN-Sports: Friday 8 p.m. CET, Saturday 4 a.m. JKT**
At San Diego
 Wichita State (25-7) vs. Marshall (24-10) **AFN-Pac-12: Friday 6 p.m. CET, Saturday 2 a.m. JKT**
At Pittsburgh
 West Virginia (24-10) vs. Murray State (26-5) **AFN-Pac-12: Friday 5:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 4:50 a.m. JKT**
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Pittsburgh
 Villanova-Radford winner vs. Virginia Tech-Alabama winner
At Dallas
 Texas Tech-Stephen F. Austin winner vs. Florida-St. Bonaventure winner
Sunday, March 18
At Detroit
 Purdue-Cal State Fullerton winner vs. Arkansas-Butler winner
At San Diego
 Wichita State-Marshall winner vs. West Virginia-Murray State winner
SOUTH REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Dallas
 Tennessee 73, Wright State 47
 Miami (22-9) vs. Loyola-Chicago (28-5)
At Boise, Idaho
 Kentucky (26-11) vs. Kansas State (22-11) **Arizona (27) vs. Buffalo (26-8) AFN-Sports: Friday 10:30 a.m. CET, Saturday 7:45 a.m. JKT**
Friday, March 16
At Charlotte, N.C.
 Creighton (21-11) vs. Kansas State (22-11) **AFN-Sports: Friday 11:45 p.m. CET, Saturday 7:45 a.m. JKT**
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Virginia (31-2) vs. UMBEC (24-10) **AFN-Pac-12: Saturday 2:15 a.m. CET, Saturday 10:15 a.m. JKT**
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Cincinnati (30-4) vs. Georgia St. (24-10)
 Nevada (27-7) vs. Texas (14-14)
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Dallas
 Tennessee (26-8) vs. Miami-Loyola of Chicago winner
At Boise, Idaho
 Arizona-Buffalo winner vs. Kentucky-Davidson winner
Sunday, March 18
At Charlotte, N.C.
 Virginia-UMBEC winner vs. Creighton-Kentucky winner
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Cincinnati-Georgia State winner vs. Nevada-Texas winner

MIDWEST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Pittsburgh
 Rhode Island 83, Oklahoma 78, OT
 Duke (26-7) vs. Iowa (20-13)
At Wichita, Kan.
 Kansas (27-7) vs. Pennsylvania (24-8)
 Seton Hall (21-11) vs. N.C. State (21-11)
Friday, March 16
At Detroit
 Michigan State (29-4) vs. Bucknell (25-9) **AFN-Sports: Friday midnight CET, Saturday 8 a.m. JKT**
 TCU (21-11) vs. Syracuse (21-13) **AFN-Sports: Saturday 2:30 a.m. CET, Saturday 10:30 a.m. JKT**
At San Diego
 Auburn (25-7) vs. College of Charleston (26-7) **AFN-Sports: Saturday 12:15 a.m. CET, Saturday 8:15 a.m. JKT**
 Clemson (23-8) vs. New Mexico State (28-5) **AFN-Sports: Saturday 3 a.m. CET, Saturday 11 a.m. JKT**
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Pittsburgh
 Duke-Iowa winner vs. Rhode Island (26-7)
At Wichita, Kan.
 Kansas-Pennsylvania winner vs. Seton Hall-N.C. State winner
Sunday, March 18
At Detroit
 Michigan State-Bucknell winner vs. TCU-Syracuse winner
At San Diego
 Auburn-College of Charleston winner vs. Clemson-New Mexico State winner
WEST REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 15
At Wichita, Kan.
 Houston (26-7) vs. San Diego St. (22-10)
 Michigan (28-7) vs. Montana (26-7)
At Boise, Idaho
 Gonzaga (30-4) vs. UNC Greensboro (27-7)
 Ohio St. (24-8) vs. South Dakota St. (28-6)
Friday, March 16
At Charlotte, N.C.
 Texas A&M (20-12) vs. Providence (21-13) **AFN-Sports: Friday 5 p.m. CET, Saturday 1 a.m. JKT**
 North Carolina (25-10) vs. Lipscomb (23-9) **AFN-Sports: Friday 7:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 3:30 a.m. JKT**
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Xavier (28-5) vs. Texas Southern (16-19)
 Missouri (20-12) vs. Florida State (20-11)
Second Round
Saturday, March 17
At Wichita, Kan.
 Michigan-Montana winner vs. Houston-San Diego State winner
At Boise, Idaho
 Gonzaga-UNC Greensboro winner vs. Ohio State-South Dakota State winner
At Charlotte, N.C.
 North Carolina-Lipscomb winner vs. Texas A&M-Providence winner
At Nashville, Tenn.
 Xavier-Texas Southern winner vs. Missouri-Florida State winner

Losses by UCLA, Arizona St. make it a Pac-12 Tournament

By JOE KAY

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — UCLA played one of its worst games. Arizona State finished with a season low in points. With the First Four finished, there's only one Pac-12 team left for the main draw in the NCAA Tournament.

It's a Pac-12 show the rest of the way, with the league's hopes all resting on Arizona after the league took a double blow in Dayton.

UCLA was relegated to the First Four for the first time in its storied NCAA Tournament history, which includes 18 Final Four appearances. The Bruins matched their season high with 20 turnovers, helping St. Bonaventure get its first NCAA Tournament victory in 48 years on Tuesday night with a 65-58 win.

A day later, Arizona State was stymied by Syracuse's zone defense and lost 60-56, by far the Sun Devils' worst offensive showing of the season. Neither UCLA nor Arizona State managed to hit the 60-point mark at University of Dayton Arena.

"This feeling right now — it stings, it burns," said Kodi Justice, who led Arizona State with 15 points.

There's a lot of that going around his league.

The Pac-12 entered the tournament with one boast: the only conference to get a team to the Elite Eight in each of the past four seasons. Arizona made it in 2014 and 2015, Oregon the next two years.

This year, it's more of an NIT outfit.



JOHN MINICILLA/AP

Arizona State's Kodi Justice reacts after fouling Syracuse's Frank Howard late in a First Four game on Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio. Syracuse won 60-56, leaving the Pac-12 with just one team.

The Pac-12 managed to get only three teams into the NCAA Tournament, with fourth-seeded Arizona the only one in the main draw. The Wildcats put Buffalo in Boise in the South Region.

One is such a lonely number, given how the other conferences fared.

The Atlantic Coast Conference matched its own record of nine tournament teams when Syracuse squeezed into the field as the final one. And then the Orange squeezed the Pac-12 down to one team for the opening round.

The Southeastern Conference set a league record with eight teams in the tournament. The Big

12 got seven teams. The Big East has six, including No. 1 seeds Villanova and Xavier. The Pac-12 was tied with the Atlantic 10 and the American Athletic Conference with three apiece.

Instead, the Pac-12 sent five teams to the National Invitation Tournament, the most ever for the conference. USC, Utah, Oregon, Stanford and Washington are competing for that other title.

The Pac-12 was in a similar predicament in 2012. California lost to South Florida in Dayton, leaving Colorado as the league's only team in the main draw as an 11 seed. Colorado won its first game before getting knocked out.

Outgoing Macon making most of time at Arkansas

By KURT VOIGT

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Daryl Macon wasn't always the upbeat, quick-witted member of the Razorbacks basketball team fans are familiar with now.

When the Arkansas guard isn't busy trying to elicit a laugh, he speaks more softly and his mood turns reflective. The seriousness of his eyes betrays his well-deserved reputation as the easygoing, light-hearted joker.

He shouldn't be here. If Macon had his way, way back as a senior in high school, he wouldn't be in Fayetteville, where he is one of the key members of a team that will make its third NCAA Tournament appearance in four seasons when it opens play against Butler (20-13) on Friday.

That Daryl Macon, the kid he once knew, wanted to give up after finding out his lack of attention to academics in high school meant he had to attend junior college if he wanted to eventually play for his home state Razorbacks. He wanted to quit school, quit basketball.

Quit everything. "My mom talked me out of it," Macon



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Arkansas' Daryl Macon has been known to delay postgame interviews in favor of signing every autograph he can.

said. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be playing now."

To hear Deloise Macon tell the story, that talk with her then-high school son was more of a directive than a two-way discussion.

"No, no, no," she told her youngest during

his senior year of high school at Little Rock Parkview. "We're not done yet."

Rather than dwell on all the times she had told her son that he needed more than just basketball to keep playing after high school, Macon sold him on what was next. She stressed what two years at Holmes Community College in neighboring Mississippi would mean for Daryl Macon as a basketball player — and as a man.

And then she sent her despondent son four hours away to ensure deep in her heart how he would do away from home.

"It was heartbreaking, really," she said. On his own for the first time, away from friends and admittedly bored much of the time, Macon called home one night a few months after moving.

"I got it, I understand it," Macon told his mom. "I get it."

Macon might have grown up during those two years in Mississippi, but one area where he never had a problem was on the court. He was sixth nationally in junior-college scoring with an average of 23.9 points per game as a sophomore two years ago, a performance that was more than enough to finally earn the 6-foot-3 guard a spot back home at Arkansas (23-11).

The senior regrets having had only two

years with the Razorbacks, but he's left an unmistakable mark on the program.

Sure, there's the on-the-court performance — including an average of 16.9 points per game this season and three-point shooting percentage (42.9) that's third in the Southeastern Conference.

More than any statistic, it's the impact Macon's personality has had that will be remembered. He regularly entertains fans with a pregame ritual that includes hitting three-pointers from near halfcourt before running back to the dressing room, and he's been known to delay postgame interviews in favor of signing every autograph he can.

Even in his postgame news conferences, Macon goes out of his way to make casual conversation with the media — an openness that carried over from the regular season to last week's Southeastern Conference Tournament for him and teammates.

"Him bringing guys out of their shell, him being more open, I think that's just maturity and getting comfortable in your own skin in terms of what you're doing and your role on this basketball team," Arkansas coach Mike Anderson said. "I just think he embodies the right things, and it's refreshing to see."

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Glue guys

Best teams often stick around thanks to do-it-all players

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

Carsen Edwards can light up the scoreboard for Purdue. Seven-footer Isaac Haas poses an imposing figure in the lane.

But the best teams in the NCAA Tournament often stick around for a while because of the contributions of do-it-all players who can get overshadowed by the teammate with a thunderous dunk or flashy drive.

Every good team needs a "glue guy."

Arizona's Rawle Alkins provides energy and emotion. Eric Paschall's scrappy play provides possessions for Villanova. North Carolina's Theo Pinson is such a capable defender that he can take on point guards on the perimeter or bigger forwards closer to the basket.

For the Boilermakers, that guy just might be guard Dakota Mathias.

Sure, Mathias can hold his own in a three-point shooting contest. He's fourth on the team in scoring at 12.4 points per game.

But when the shot's not falling, the 6-foot-4 senior contributes in other ways. Mathias made the Big Ten All-Defensive team. He joined Marshall's Jon Elmore as the only two players in the country to have 135 assists, 135 rebounds and 90 three-pointers.

He finished his career on Purdue's home court in style with seven rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocks to go with his 25 points against Minnesota on Feb. 25.

"I always equate it to major league baseball players," coach Matt Painter said then. "There's not a major league baseball hitter that doesn't have slumps at some time. ... But no, this was kind of a quintessential game for him in terms of a guy that got seven rebounds, got four assists, didn't turn the ball over, and then made his shots."

Most of these guys can score. But making shots might not be the most important skill a glue guy provides.

A look at other players in the NCAA Tournament whose contributions often go beyond the shot sheet:

Eric Paschall, Villanova: Watch the Big East Tournament final against Providence to find out just how important the 6-9 Paschall is to coach Jay Wright. Paschall scored seven points but had 13 rebounds, including six on the offensive glass.

"Eric got so many extra posses-



GENRY BROOME/AP

North Carolina's Theo Pinson can defend point guards on the perimeter or bigger forwards closer to the basket. Pinson's playmaking ability is key to making UNC's small-ball offense work.

sions for us. He was credited with six offensive rebounds but there was a number that he tipped free that we came up with." Wright said after the 76-66 overtime win. "I think it had a big difference in the game."

Rawle Alkins, Arizona: The 6-foot-5 guard is third on the team at 13.4 points per game, to go with 4.8 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.2 steals. He's also the Wildcats' energy-boosting leader. "You have Rawle that brings a toughness to our team that separates maybe from some others," coach Sean Miller said.

Silas Melson, Gonzaga: The Bulldogs' graybeard has appeared in a team-high 11 NCAA Tournament games. His 124 career wins lead all active players. Sixth in scoring at 9.5 points a game, Melson provides tourney experience on a team that lost four its top five scorers from the squad that advanced to last year's title game.

Theo Pinson, North Carolina: The 6-foot-6 senior's value goes well beyond stats. He's a playmaker who can alter a game even without putting up many points. Pinson's passing is key to making UNC's small-ball offense work considering the Tar Heels have four good outside shooters around him, which opens lanes for him to finish near the rim.

Khiry Thomas, Creighton: The 6-3 guard's athletic play has drawn the eye of NBA scouts. Second on the Bluejays in scoring (15.3 points), Thomas can change a game on the defensive end alone. He's the two-time Big East Defensive Player of the Year.

Isaiah Wilkins and Jack Salt, Virginia: Arguably a glue-guy combo on the No. 1 team in the country. Wilkins is the best defender and rebounder on the best defensive team in the country. Salt does dirty work at both ends, sets screens, protects the rim and taps the ball out for teammates to get rebounds.

Pitch: Upperclassmen crucial to Cavs' success

FROM BACK PAGE

high-percentage shot before the shot clock runs out, but prevent less-disciplined teams from doing so. Their Pack-Line defense has routinely been ranked among the most effective in the nation.

One of the main reasons the system works so well is Bennett's roster usually features upperclassmen with NBA talent, from Joe Harris to Malcolm Brogdon to London Perrantes. Bennett, the 2018 ACC coach of the year, has been able to find — and recruit — players committed to not only buying into his system, but staying in school.

"There are certain programs that are upperclassmen programs where the guys improve. Unless you can recruit all the top 10, top 20 players, you need guys ... that will be patient, see a little success and get better and better," Bennett said, listing Brogdon, Harris, Perrantes, Mike Tobey and Devon Hall as examples.

The Cavaliers' outright Atlantic Coast Conference title this season was their third in five years, something even Sampson, a three-time national player of the year, didn't achieve. They rolled through the ACC's regular season, including victories at home against North Carolina and on the road at Duke.

Virginia's first win in Durham in 23 years. Then they captured the ACC Tournament title in New York, finishing 20-1 against league competition.

Bennett, who is 219-85 in nine seasons at Virginia, credits experience with making that success possible.

Perrantes, a four-year starter at Virginia, has a two-way contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He has appeared in only three games with Cleveland and has spent most of his time with the Canton Charge of the NBA G League.

Part of what has made Virginia successful, Perrantes said, is that Bennett knows the kind of player he wants.

"Yeah, he's definitely trying to find the guys who are going to fit in," Perrantes said. "Obviously, he wants to get good recruits, high-level players, but he wants to make sure that they fit into his program."

Harris, with the Brooklyn Nets, followed Bennett to Virginia when the school hired him away from Washington State. He's the first of Bennett's recruits that stayed at least four years and then made it to the NBA.

Harris also helped set a leadership tone for upperclassmen who he carried on since his departure.

"They've seen it, they've been through it, they know what matters," Bennett said. "It takes a while and I don't want to say it's recreated itself, but ... Malcolm watched Joe, and then those guys watched Malcolm."

Brogdon, the ACC player of the year and defensive player of the year as a senior, was drafted in the second round by the Milwaukee Bucks in 2016 and was named the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

Tobey was undrafted, but



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Senior Devon Hall is a poster child for the patience Virginia coach Tony Bennett looks for in players. Hall opted to redshirt his first season and has developed steadily ever since.

signed a couple of 10-day contracts with the Charlotte Hornets after signing with their G-League affiliate. And Mike Scott, currently with the Washington Wizards, is a player that was already on the roster when Bennett was hired. He's a six-year NBA veteran who spent five years at Virginia after a medical redshirt.

Hall, a second team All-ACC selection this year, is one of the leaders this season at Virginia, along with fellow senior Isaiah Wilkins, the ACC's defensive player of the year. Wilkins is the Cavaliers' best defensive player and rebounder, and said leadership is something he's learned as he's gone along.

"You pick up little things from every single person," he said.

Hall opted to redshirt his first season when it seemed playing time would be scarce and has developed steadily ever since.

"I think it's a matter of growing and that year really helped me do that," he said. "I learned and I got better just working on my game."

Hall's route is the same one De'Andre Hunter, the ACC's sixth man of the year, has followed. He's averaging 9.2 points on 48.8 percent shooting and has led the team in scoring six times with a high of 23.

Advice from Hall helped Hunter come to terms with his disappointment over spending his first season practicing with the team, but having to watch from the bench during games.

"He just told me to be confident and work on my game. That's what he did," Hunter said. "He worked on his game and got better for the next season and as you can see, he just gets better and better every year."

Just like the rest of the Cavaliers.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Purdue hopes experience leads to deep run

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue guard Dakota Mathias prefers old-school basketball.

Over the past four seasons he has seen how coach Matt Painter still wins with a traditional inside-out offense, how the program's "play hard" motto means something and why digging down on defense matters. Mathias and the Boilermakers' other three senior starters want to show NCAA Tournament fans that basic fundamentals and experience are always in style, perhaps especially so with the sport under a cloud of scandal.

"I think we're an example of everything that's right with college basketball," Mathias said. "We have four seniors staying in school, getting their degrees, playing the game the right way and never getting in trouble."

With the one-and-done parade holding steady, salacious scandals tainting some of the country's most powerful programs and an ongoing FBI investigation threatening to overshadow the sport's marquee event, the Boilermakers (28-6) are a refreshing throwback.

Here, the pro aspirations of Mathias, Vincent Edwards, Isaac Haas and P.J. Thompson have been put on hold temporarily as they focus on teamwork and chase overall goals.

Here, they play off of each other's strengths, figured out their weaknesses and developed the kind of toughness and camaraderie only time can create — a bond seemingly non-existent at so many big-time schools where revolving rosters have become the norm.

After earning a No. 2 seed, the school's highest in two decades, the close-knit Boilers are now studying Friday's opponent, 15th-seeded Cal State Fullerton (20-11).

It's everything Painter hoped for when he recruited this group.

"It's about growth, development and getting better together and getting a de-

gree and going on to play pro basketball," Painter said. "I think this group will be the model when it comes to future classes for us, outside the one with [Robbie] Hummel, E'Twaun [Moore] and [JaJuan] Johnson."

All Painter did was follow the model of mentor and former Purdue coaching great Gene Keady. He primarily recruited Indiana and the neighboring states, kept the home-grown talent on campus and never paid attention to recruiting rankings, poll numbers or individual awards. Instead, they worked tirelessly on development.

Haas, the 7-foot-2 center from Alabama and the offensive cornerstone, was the only player in the class widely regarded as a top-100 recruit. In time, Mathias emerged as a proficient three-point specialist and



Purdue's Vincent Edwards reacts after hitting a three-pointer in the Big Ten tournament. The senior forward has emerged as one of the Big Ten's most versatile players.



PHOTOS BY JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Purdue center Isaac Haas shoots against Rutgers during the Big Ten tournament. Haas is the only Boilermakers senior that was widely regarded as a top-100 recruit.

the team's defensive catalyst, Edwards emerged as one of the nation's most versatile players, and Thompson, of Indianapolis, turned into a three-point shooting guard who rarely makes mistakes.

Together, they've scored more than 5,000 points, grabbed more than 2,000 rebounds and had more than 1,100 assists. Haas and the two Ohio prep players — Edwards and Mathias — are all members of the school's 1,000-point club.

They've won at every Big Ten venue during their career, never finished worse than third in league play, won a school record 62 home games and went 5-1 against rival Indiana.

With two wins this weekend, the Boilermakers would break school records for most victories in a single season, back-to-back seasons (57), back-to-back-to-back seasons (63) and match the second-highest victory total over four seasons (104).

But the most impressive part may be how they responded when last year's national player of the year candidate Caleb Swanigan left early for the NBA after leading Purdue to its first outright Big Ten title in 21 years.

The defending champs actually performed better this season — winning 19 straight at one point and five of their last six heading into tourney play.

"I think it's pretty awesome," Haas said. "We've played some pretty good basketball this year, there's no denying that."

But after last year's Sweet 16 run ended with an embarrassing 32-point loss to Kansas in the regional semifinals, the Boilermakers head to Detroit even hungrier.

The last goal is taking Purdue to its first Final Four since 1980.

"It would be huge, exciting. It's what the fans want," Mathias said. "It's a storied program and they deserve it."

Auburn's Pearl back in tourney amid uncertain fate

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Bruce Pearl opened this college basketball season with a renewed confidence that he insists didn't falter, even after his top assistant coach was indicted as part of a federal investigation that cost two of Auburn's best players their eligibility.

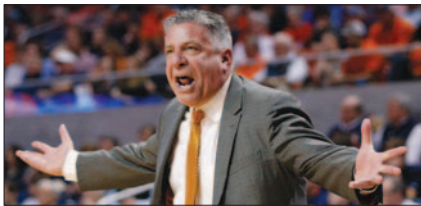
Even with his success on the court, his job security remains an open question.

He has led the 19th-ranked Tigers to their first Southeastern Conference regular season title since 1999 and ended a 15-year NCAA Tournament drought despite the troubling backdrop.

But even with his outsized personality, the coach who had almost annual forays to the NCAA Tournament started to waver about this time last year on whether he was the person to get the Tigers to that coveted destination.

"I thought that this team was hard-working enough, talented enough, experienced enough and by golly they did it," Pearl said.

At the 2,000-mile journey that No. 4 seed Auburn (25-7) will



BYRN ANDERSON/AP

Auburn coach Bruce Pearl reacts on the sidelines during a game earlier this month. Pearl, with an out-sized personality and checkered past, has Auburn in its first NCAA Tournament in 15 years but faces questions about job security amid an internal review of the program.

make up play College of Charleston (26-7) Friday night in the Midwest Regional in San Diego seems fitting considering the odyssey Pearl and this team have been through.

While it is Auburn's second-highest NCAA seed behind the top-seeded 1999 team that reached the Sweet Sixteen, a cloud of uncertainty still hovers over Pearl and the program. It's

lingered since the arrest of Chuck Person, a former Tigers star and NBA player who was charged in the widespread federal probe into college basketball corruption. Person allegedly accepted bribes to steer players to a financial advisor once they turned pro and funneled money to the families of Austin Wiley and Daniel Purifoy. Neither played this season.

Two support staffers were also

placed on leave.

Pearl has yet to submit to a formal interview with a law firm conducting an internal review of his program. That will presumably come after the season. At the time, President Steven Leake and new athletic director Allen Greene could possibly determine his fate.

Leath issued a statement to the AP, calling it "an incredible season for Auburn basketball," but declining to discuss a timetable.

"Athletic director Allen Greene and I are working through the NCAA process, and it's not appropriate that we comment further at this time on that process," Leath said.

Pearl has been down this road before.

The coach's history with the NCAA could make his Auburn situation even more precarious. Auburn hired him four years ago when he still had several months left under the show-cause penalty from his time at Tennessee.

Pearl was cited for unethical conduct for lying to NCAA investigators in June 2010 about improperly hosting recruits at his

home, resulting in a three-year show-cause penalty.

Hoping for a happier ending this time, Pearl maintains that he practiced what he's constantly preached this season to his team. Focus only on what you can control.

"I try not to worry about that stuff," Pearl said. "My focus was this team, these players, this university. And the other stuff is a process that you have to go through. It's no fun, but it's something that happens and you go through it. I'm confident that when we get to the other side, we're going to be OK."

"And I'll still be the basketball coach at Auburn."

If the team is concerned about Pearl's future, it hasn't affected Auburn's play.

"He tells us just to not worry about that and focus on the big picture and focus on what we can control," said Bryce Brown, a first-team All-SEC guard. "We haven't been focusing on if he's going to be here, we haven't been focusing on next year. We've been focusing on what's in front of us right now, and that's College of Charleston."

SPORTS



Middle men

Depth at center a common trait among contenders » **NHL, Page 57**

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Four-year pitch

Bennett skilled at finding, recruiting players willing to buy in for the long haul

BY HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

VIRGINIA, Va. — Virginia men's basketball coach Tony Bennett has built the Cavaliers into one of the nation's elite programs.

The Cavaliers are enjoying arguably the most successful stretch in school history. Their No. 1 ranking is the program's first since the Ralph Sampson era ended 35 years ago.

They are also the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and have won 30 or more games three of the last five years.

Virginia's style of play receives the majority of headlines — the Cavaliers are essentially a slow-down team, committed to the idea that they can not only find a

SEE PITCH ON PAGE 62

Virginia's Tony Bennett, the 2018 ACC coach of the year, has built his system around a roster that frequently features upperclassmen with NBA talent, from Joe Harris to Malcolm Brogdon to London Perrantes.

FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Inside:

■ Pac-12 down to one after UCLA, ASU lose, Page 61



Spurs on outside of postseason looking in » **NBA, Page 55**

